

THE RANI OF KITTUR

When Chenamma, the queen of Kittur, lost her only son she was steeped in sorrow. But when her husband reminded her that even the people of Kittur were her children she pulled herself together and devoted her life to their well-being. So committed was she to the honour and welfare of her land that when the British came asking for its allegiance she took on their military strength and fought them to the end.

BRAVEHEARTS



THE RANI OF KITTUR

THE DEFIANT QUEEN

Vol 748 | ₹50

OTHER ACK BRAVEHEARTS:

PADMINI



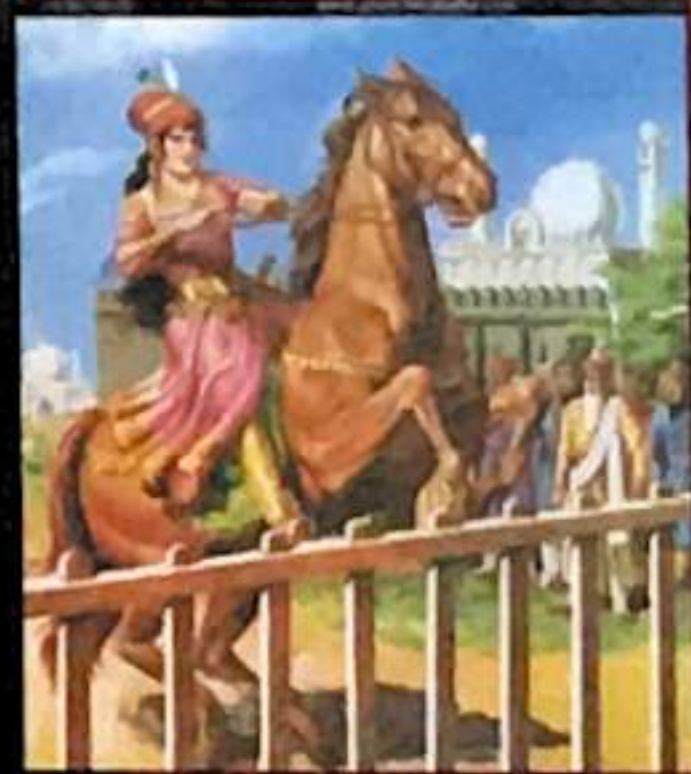
**RANI
DURGAVATI**



BAGHA JATIN



SULTANA RAZIA



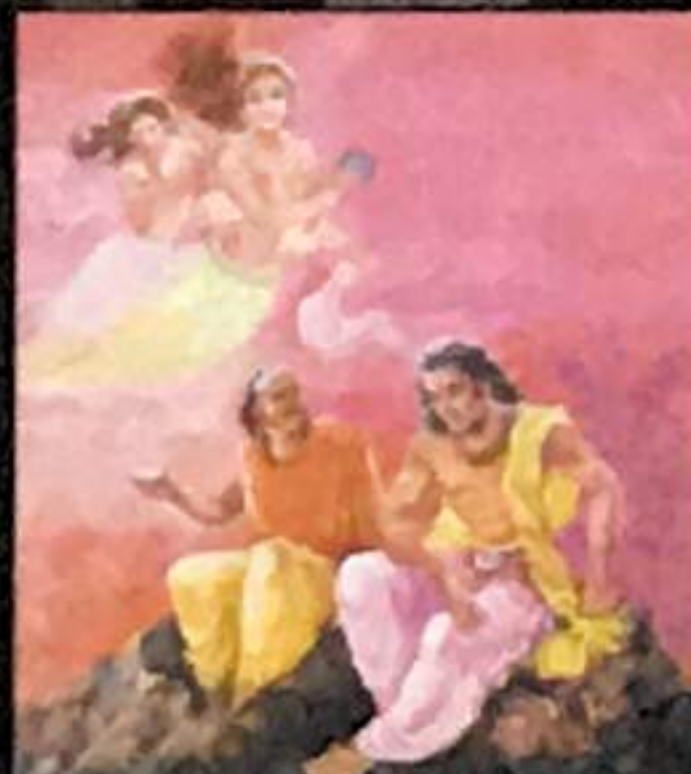
ALSO LOOK FOR:

**HANUMAN TO
THE RESCUE**



EPICS & MYTHOLOGY

URVASHI



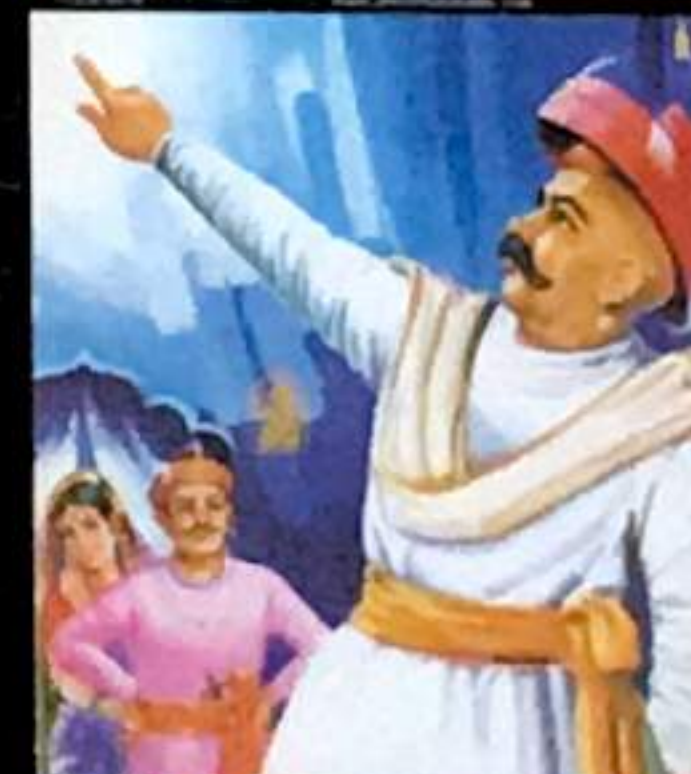
INDIAN CLASSICS

**THE COWHERD
OF ALAWI**



FABLES & HUMOUR

RAM SHASTRI



VISIONARIES

Buy online at www.amarchitrakatha.com

"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

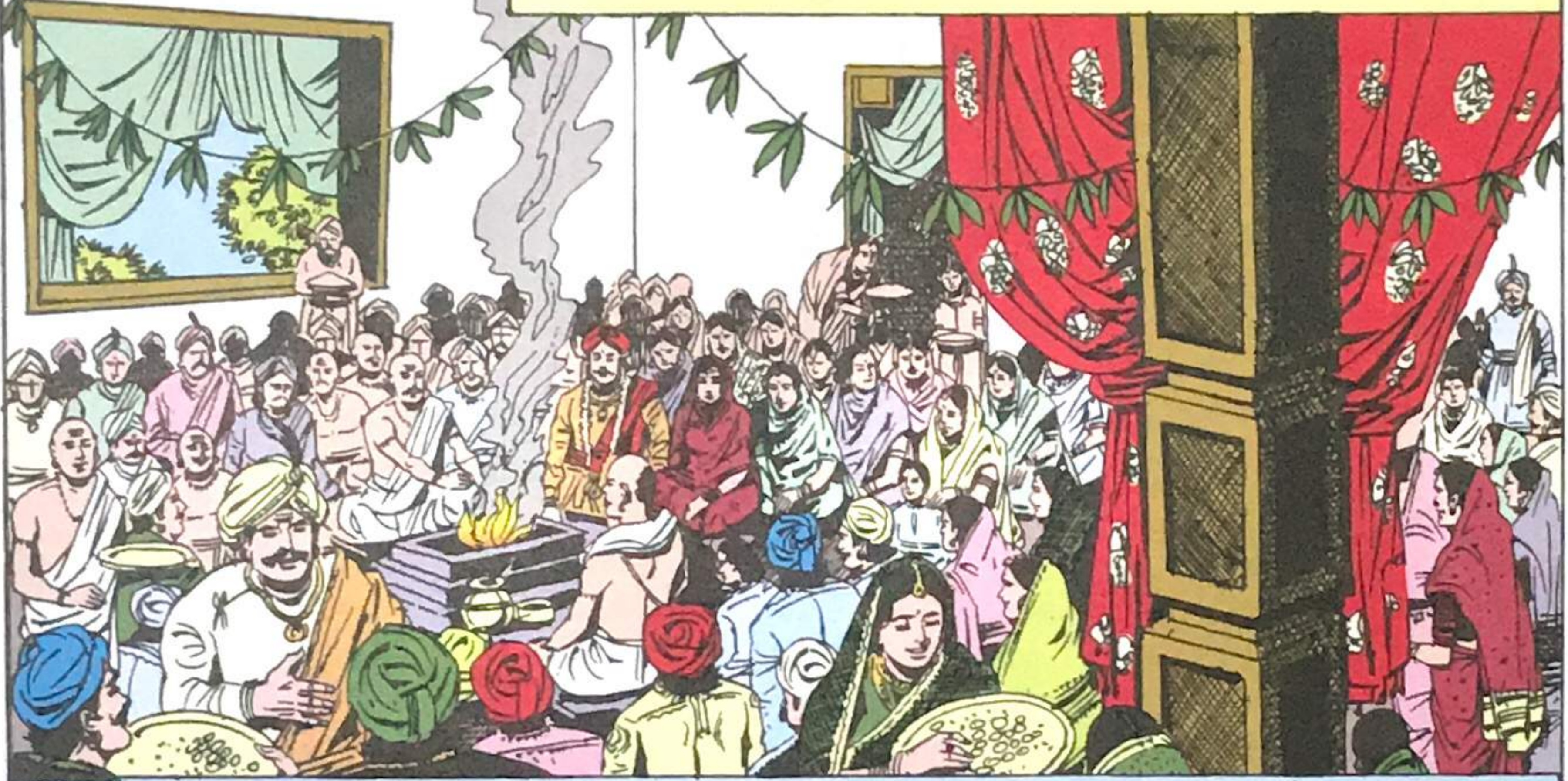
ISBN 81-8482-206-5



9 788184 822069



THE RANI OF KITTUR



WHEN CHENNAMMA, THE DAUGHTER OF DHOOLAPPA GOWDA, THE DESAI *OF KAGATI,‡ MARRIED MALLASARJA, THE KING OF KITTUR,§ SHE WAS BARELY SIXTEEN.

CHENNAMMA TOOK LEAVE OF HER FATHER WITH A HEAVY HEART.

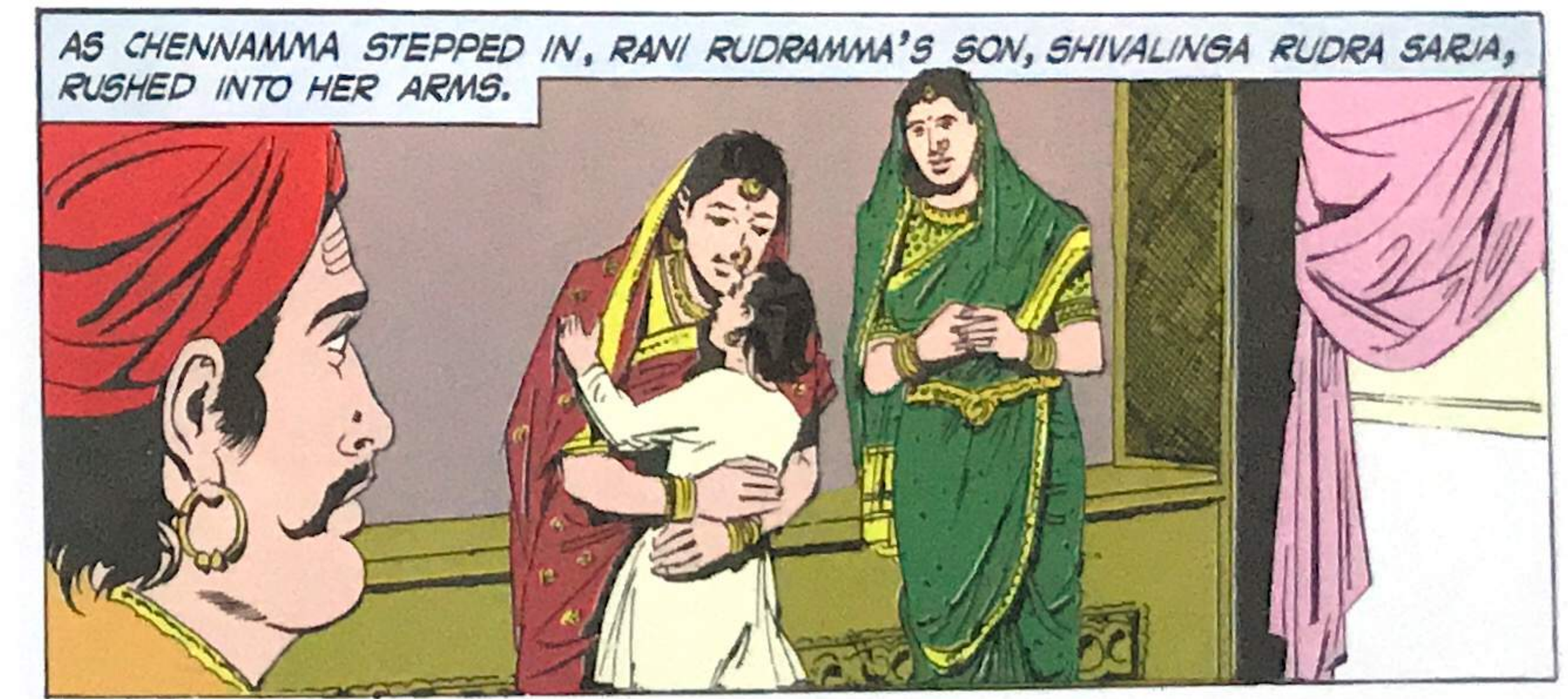
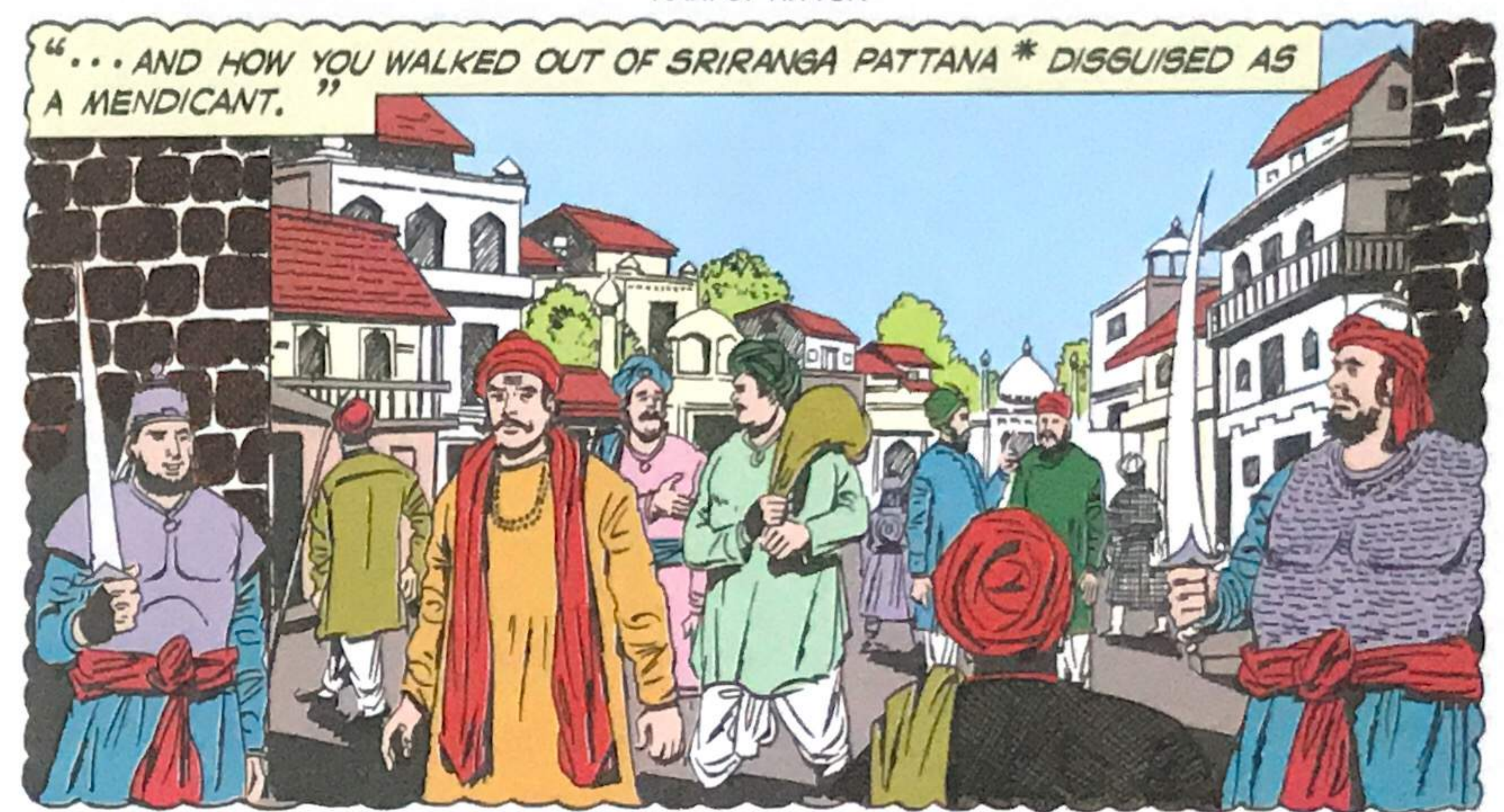
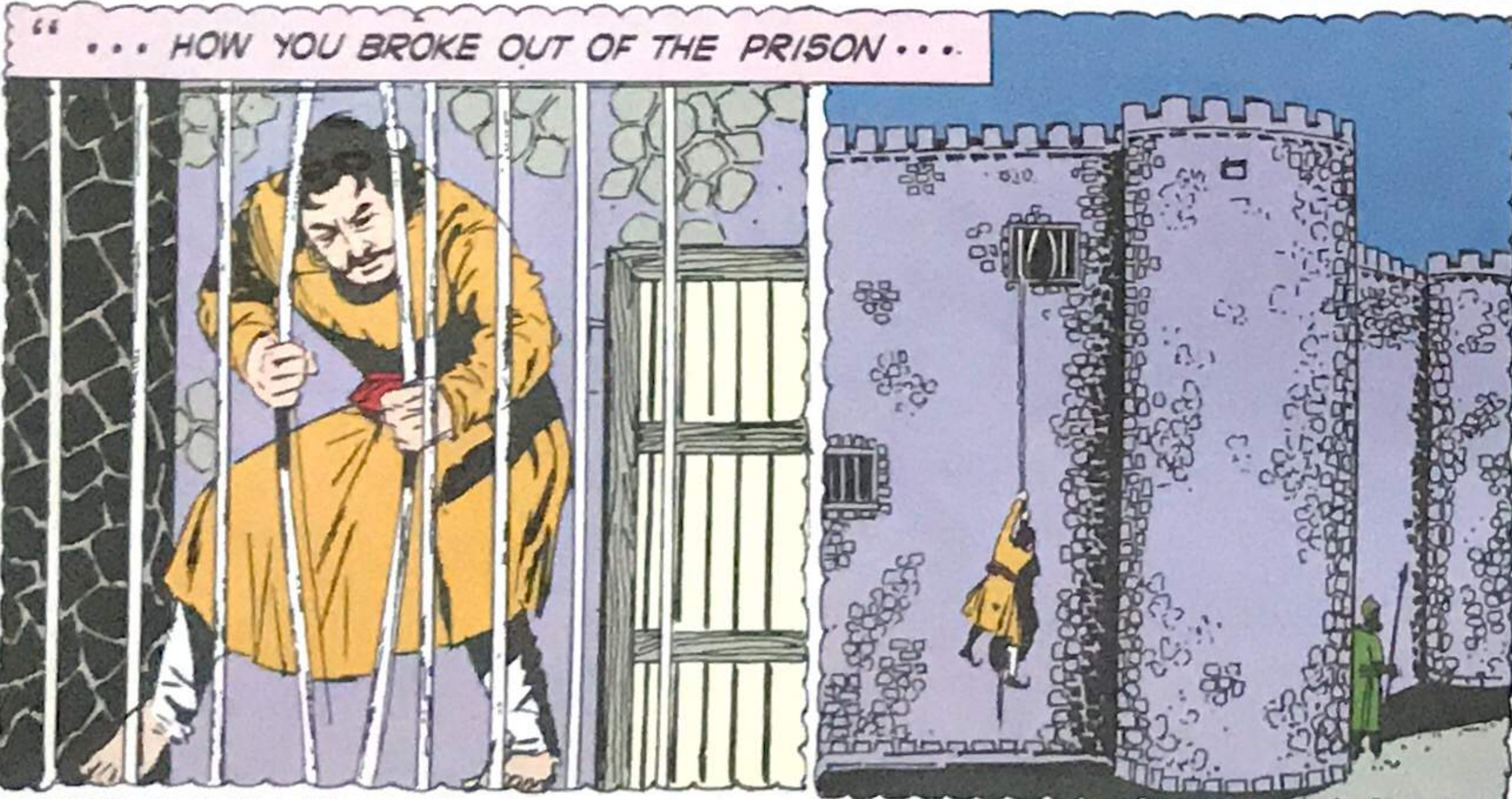
CHENNA,
SERVE YOUR
HUSBAND,
AND KITTUR WITH
WHOLE-HEARTED
DEVOTION.



WITH THE LOVING COUNSEL ECHOING IN HER HEART, CHENNAMMA LEFT FOR KITTUR.

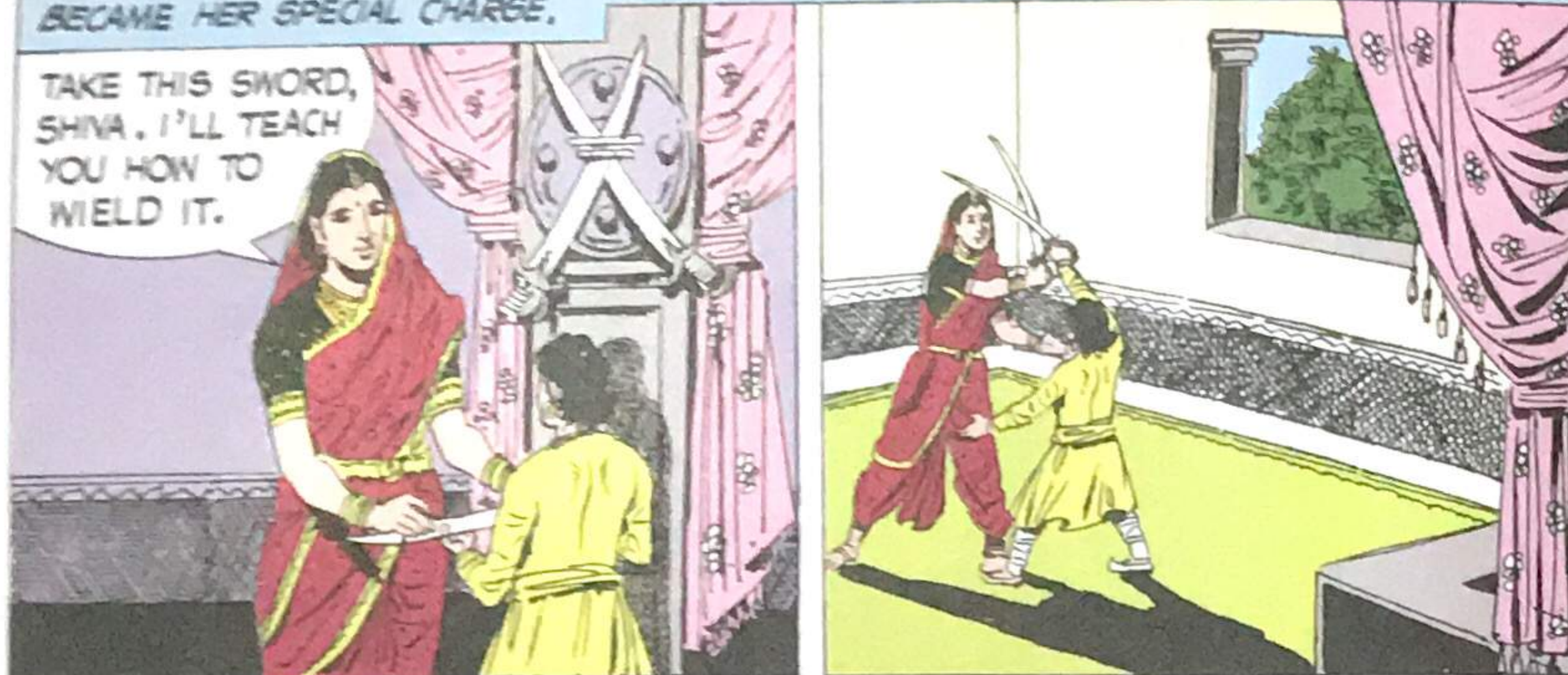


* CHIEFTAIN ‡ NEAR BELGAUM IN KARNATAKA



WHILE CHENNAMMA SOON WON THE AFFECTION OF ALL AT HER NEW HOME, THE PRINCE BECAME HER SPECIAL CHARGE.

TAKE THIS SWORD, SHIVA. I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO WIELD IT.



RUDRAMMA AND MALLASARJA WERE TOUCHED AND PLEASED TO SEE THE INTEREST CHENNAMMA TOOK IN THE PRINCE.

SHE IS A BORN MOTHER.

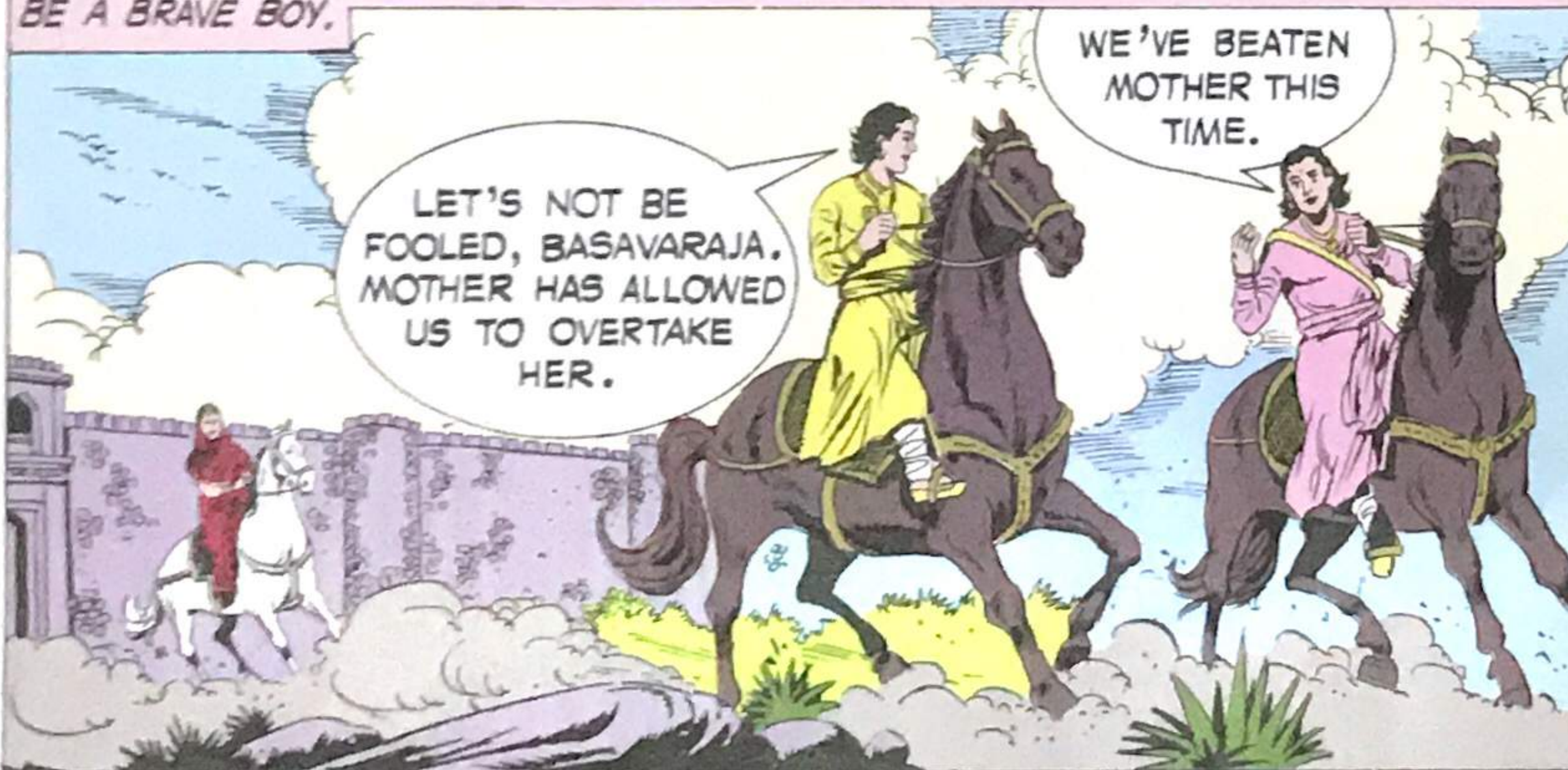


LOOKING AT THEM, ONE WOULD BELIEVE THAT SHIVA WAS HER OWN SON.

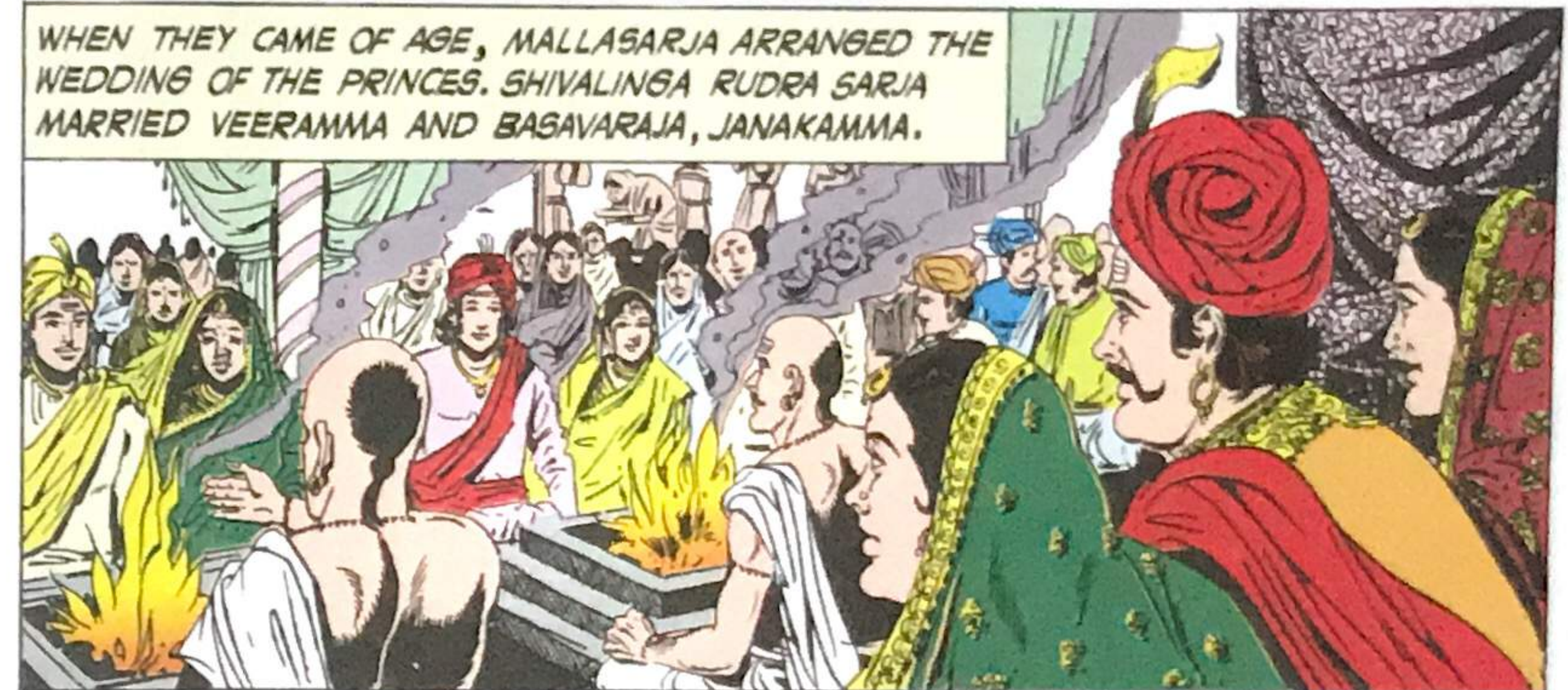
A FEW YEARS LATER, CHENNAMMA TOO BORE A SON, BASAVARAJA, WHO GREW UP TO BE A BRAVE BOY.

WE'VE BEATEN MOTHER THIS TIME.

LET'S NOT BE FOOLED, BASAVARAJA. MOTHER HAS ALLOWED US TO OVERTAKE HER.



WHEN THEY CAME OF AGE, MALLASARJA ARRANGED THE WEDDING OF THE PRINCES. SHIVALINGA RUDRA SARJA MARRIED VEERAMMA AND BASAVARAJA, JANAKAMMA.



FIVE YEARS LATER, CHENNAMMA'S SON DIED.

CHENNA SITS BROODING ALL THE TIME. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR HER.



CHENNA, YOU WEEP FOR A SON WHO IS DEAD, WHILE THE REST OF YOUR CHILDREN REMAIN NEGLECTED.



CHENNAMMA WAS PERPLEXED.

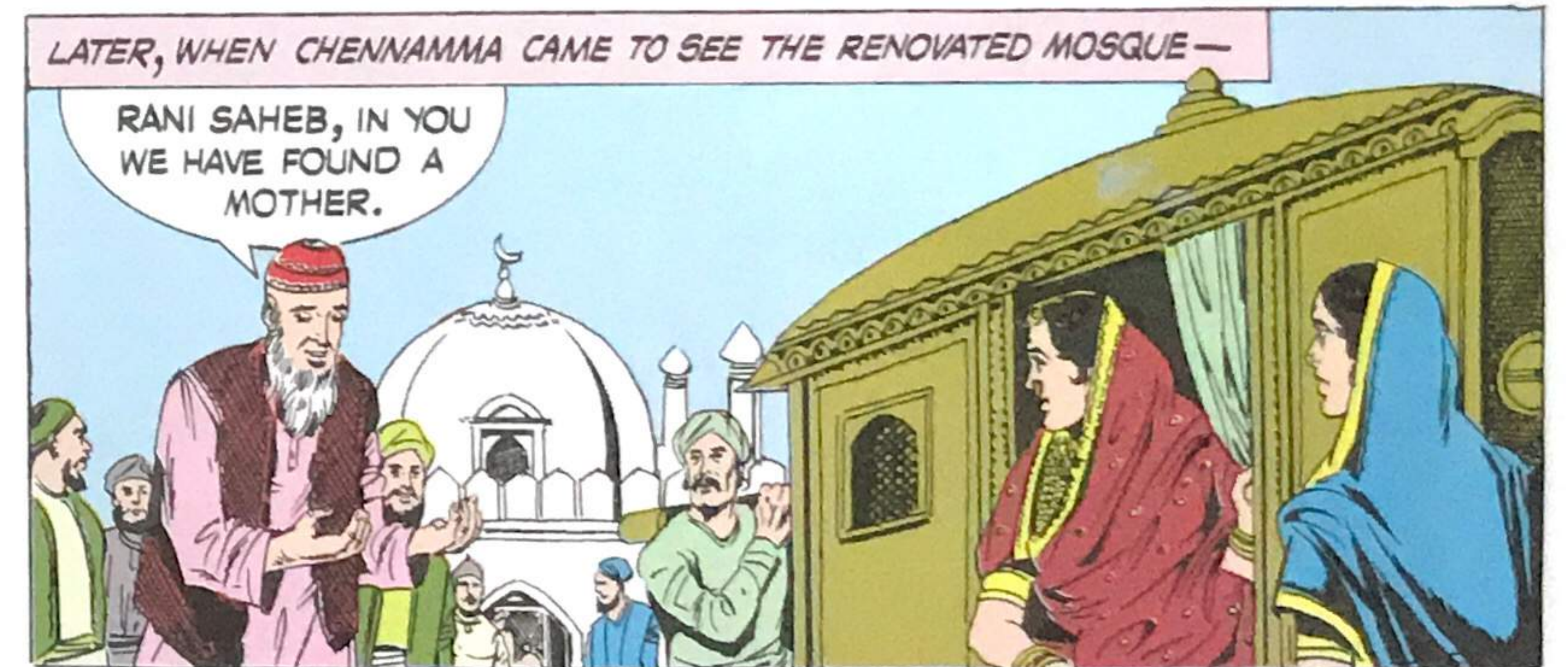
THE REST OF MY CHILDREN—MY CHILDREN?

YES, CHENNA. AS THE QUEEN, ARE YOU NOT THE MOTHER OF ALL OUR SUBJECTS?





*GOA WAS THEN UNDER PORTUGUESE OCCUPATION



A WEEK WENT BY BUT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF MALLASARJA.

WHAT COULD BE HOLDING HIM BACK? HE HASN'T SENT A MESSAGE EITHER.

SUSPECTING THAT MALLASARJA MIGHT ASSERT HIS INDEPENDENCE, THE PESHWA HAD CAPTURED HIM AT EDUR.

THE NEWS SOON REACHED CHENNAMMA.

RANI SAHEB, THE PESHWA HAS TAKEN THE KING PRISONER, HE IS AT PUNE.

CHENNAMMA SENT FOR GURU SIDDAPPA, A TRUSTED NOBLE.

GO TO PUNE, NEGOTIATE WITH THE PESHWA AND SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE KING.

I'LL START AT ONCE, YOUR MAJESTY.

MEANWHILE CHENNAMMA DID NOT ALLOW HER ANXIETY TO COME IN THE WAY OF HER ADMINISTRATION.

RANI CHENNAMMA IS AN EXCELLENT ADMINISTRATOR.

YES. I HAVE HARDLY FELT THE ABSENCE OF THE KING.

BUT WHEN SHE WAS ALONE IN THE PRIVACY OF HER CHAMBER —

WHEN WILL THE KING RETURN? IS HE ALL RIGHT? HAS GURU SIDDAPPA SUCCEEDED IN HIS MISSION?

FOR THREE ANXIOUS YEARS CHENNAMMA WAITED. THEN ONE DAY —

RANI SAHEB, I COME WITH GOOD NEWS! THE KING HAS BEEN SET FREE! HE IS ON HIS WAY TO KITTUR!

GOD BLESS YOU, MY SON. GOD BLESS YOU!

A FEW WEEKS LATER, GURU SIDDAPPA ARRIVED AT KITTUR.

WHERE IS THE KING? HAS HE SENT YOU IN ADVANCE TO INFORM US OF HIS RETURN? HOW IS HE?

HE FELL SERIOUSLY ILL IN PRISON. THAT WAS WHY HE WAS SET FREE.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF HIS ILLNESS. CAN HE STAND THE JOURNEY? WHERE IS HE NOW? WHEN WILL HE REACH KITTUR?



BUSY WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CORONATION OF SHIVALINGA RUDRA SARJA, CHENNAMMA DID NOT HAVE TIME TO GRIEVE OR BROOD. SHE WAS THE FIRST TO BLESS THE NEW KING.



TWO YEARS LATER, WAR BROKE OUT BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND THE PESHWA.



WHEN TOLD ABOUT IT, CHENNAMMA WAS SHOCKED.

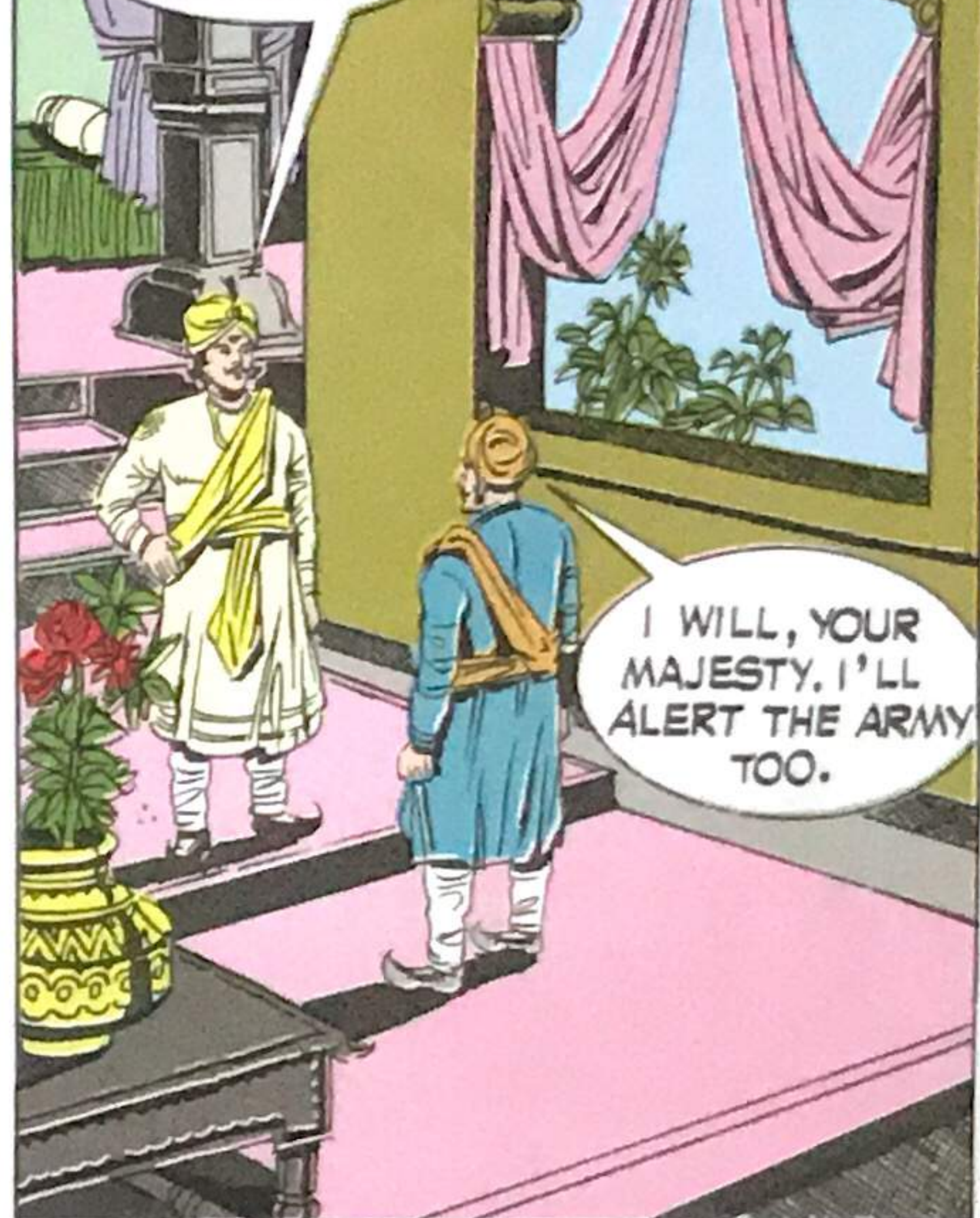
SHIVA, ON NO ACCOUNT SHOULD YOU HELP THE ALIENS AGAINST OUR COUNTRYMEN!

DON'T STOP ME, MOTHER! THE PESHWA KILLED MY FATHER. I WILL NOT LOSE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO AVENGE MY FATHER'S DEATH.



AND SHIVALINGA RUDRA SARJA SUMMONED MALLAPPA, HIS TRUSTED OFFICIAL.

INFORM THE BRITISH THAT THE FORCES OF KITTUR WILL FIGHT ON THEIR SIDE AT BELGAUM.



AND DESPITE CHENNAMMA'S DISAPPROVAL, THE SOLDIERS OF KITTUR FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE BRITISH.



BELGAUM FELL. ACCOMPANIED BY MALLAPPA AND VENKATA RAO, SHIVALINGA RUDRA SARJA CALLED ON SIR THOMAS MUNRO.

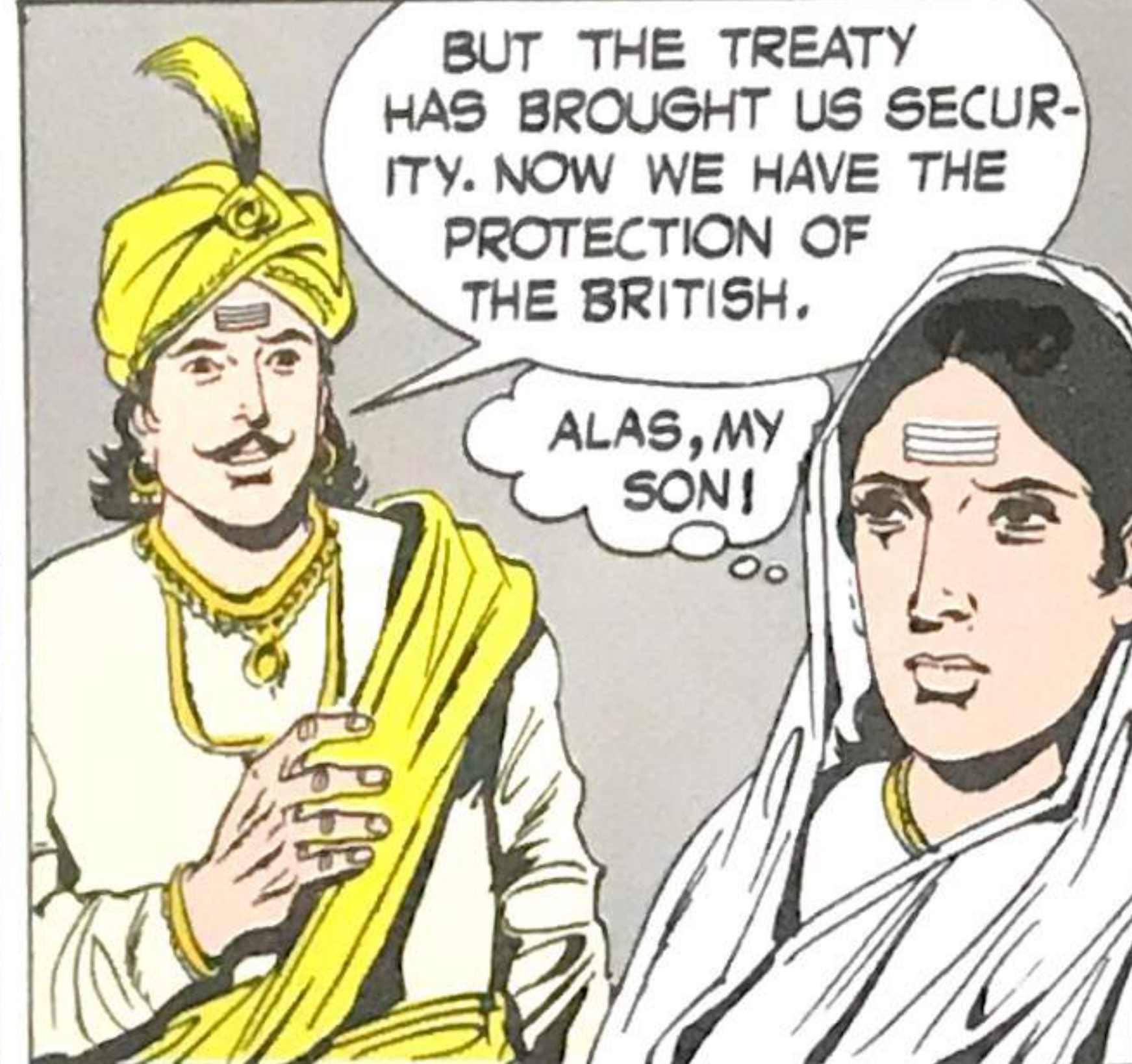


WE RECOGNIZE YOU AND YOUR SUCCESSORS AS THE RULERS OF KITTUR. YOU WILL PAY US AN ANNUAL TRIBUTE OF A LAKH AND SEVENTY THOUSAND RUPEES.

WHEN SHIVALINGA RUDRA SARJA RETURNED TO KITTUR —



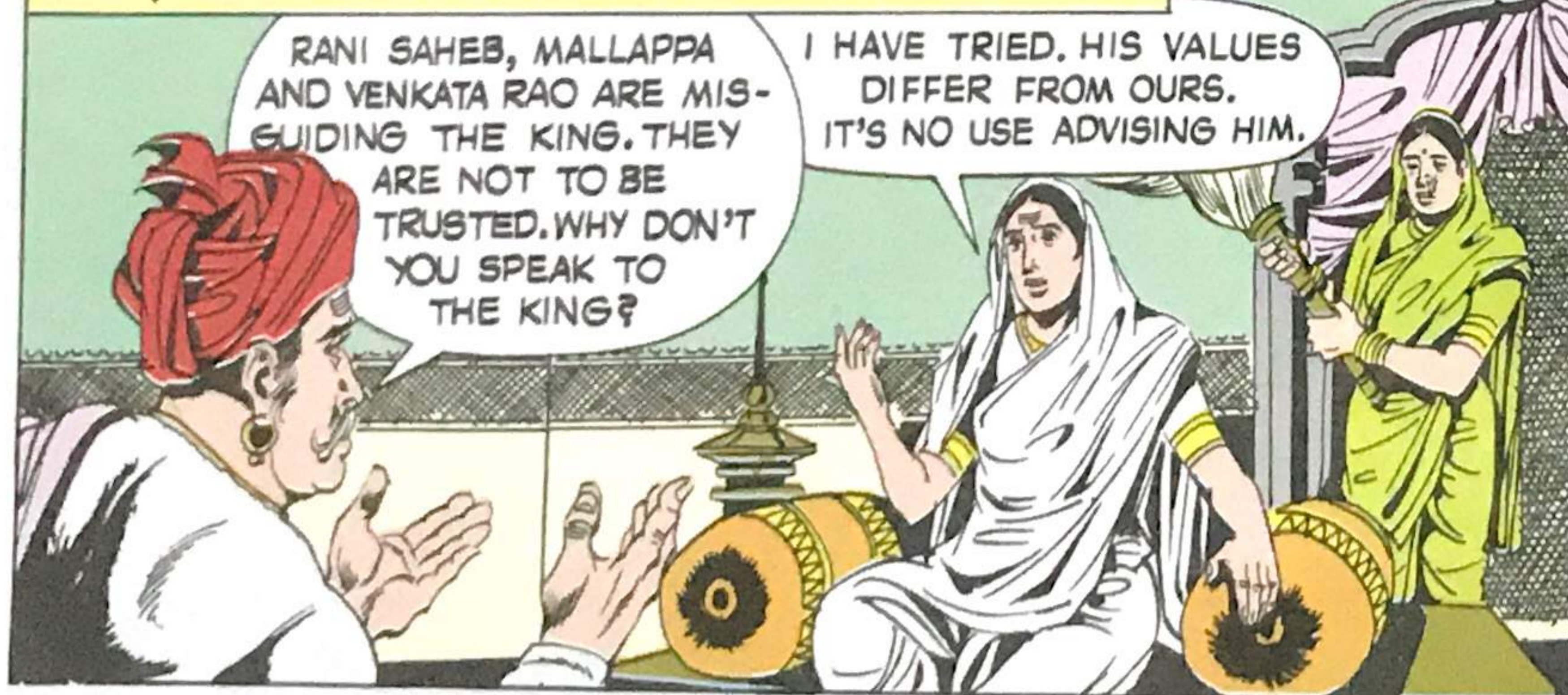
YOU HAVE STAINED THE HONOUR OF KITTUR BY SIGNING THAT TREATY!



BUT THE TREATY HAS BROUGHT US SECURITY. NOW WE HAVE THE PROTECTION OF THE BRITISH.

ALAS, MY SON!

LATER, A FRANTIC GURU SIDDAPPA CALLED ON CHENNAMMA.



RANI SAHEB, MALLAPPA AND VENKATA RAO ARE MISGUIDING THE KING. THEY ARE NOT TO BE TRUSTED. WHY DON'T YOU SPEAK TO THE KING?

I HAVE TRIED. HIS VALUES DIFFER FROM OURS. IT'S NO USE ADVISING HIM.

MEANWHILE SHIVALINGA RUDRA SARJA SUDDENLY FELL ILL.



MOTHER, I WON'T LIVE LONG. I HAVE NO SON. KITTUR NEEDS AN HEIR.

HUSH, MY SON. YOU'LL RECOVER.



BUT HIS CONDITION ONLY DETERIORATED. AT LAST ON HIS DEATH-BED, HE ADOPTED A SON.* AFTER THE CEREMONY—

MOTHER, WILL YOU TAKE CARE OF THE KINGDOM TILL MY SON COMES OF AGE?

I WILL, SHIVA.

GURU SIDDAPPA HURRIEDLY WROTE OUT A LETTER TO THE BRITISH, INFORMING THEM OF THE ADOPTION AND THE DYING KING SIGNED IT.



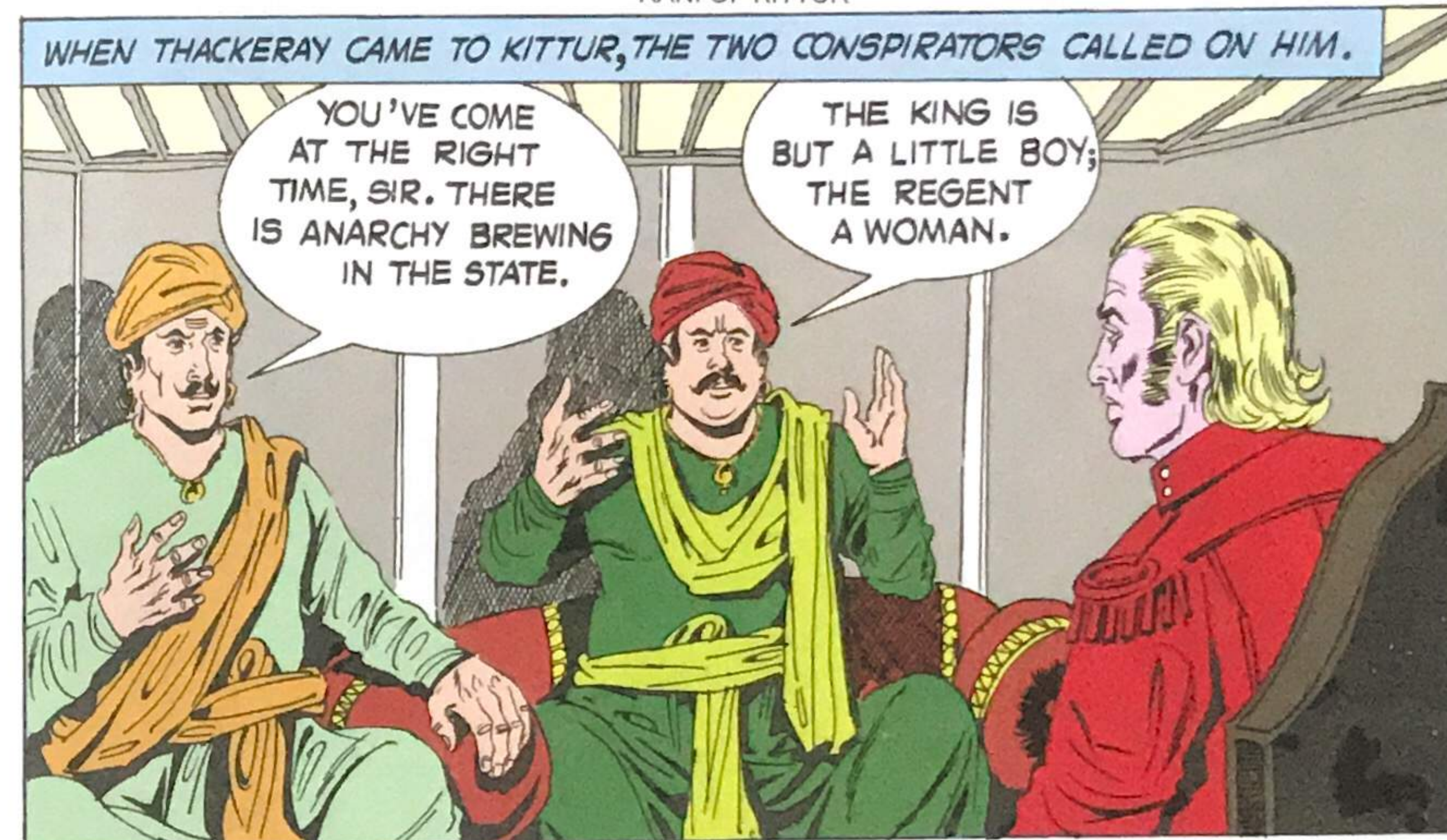
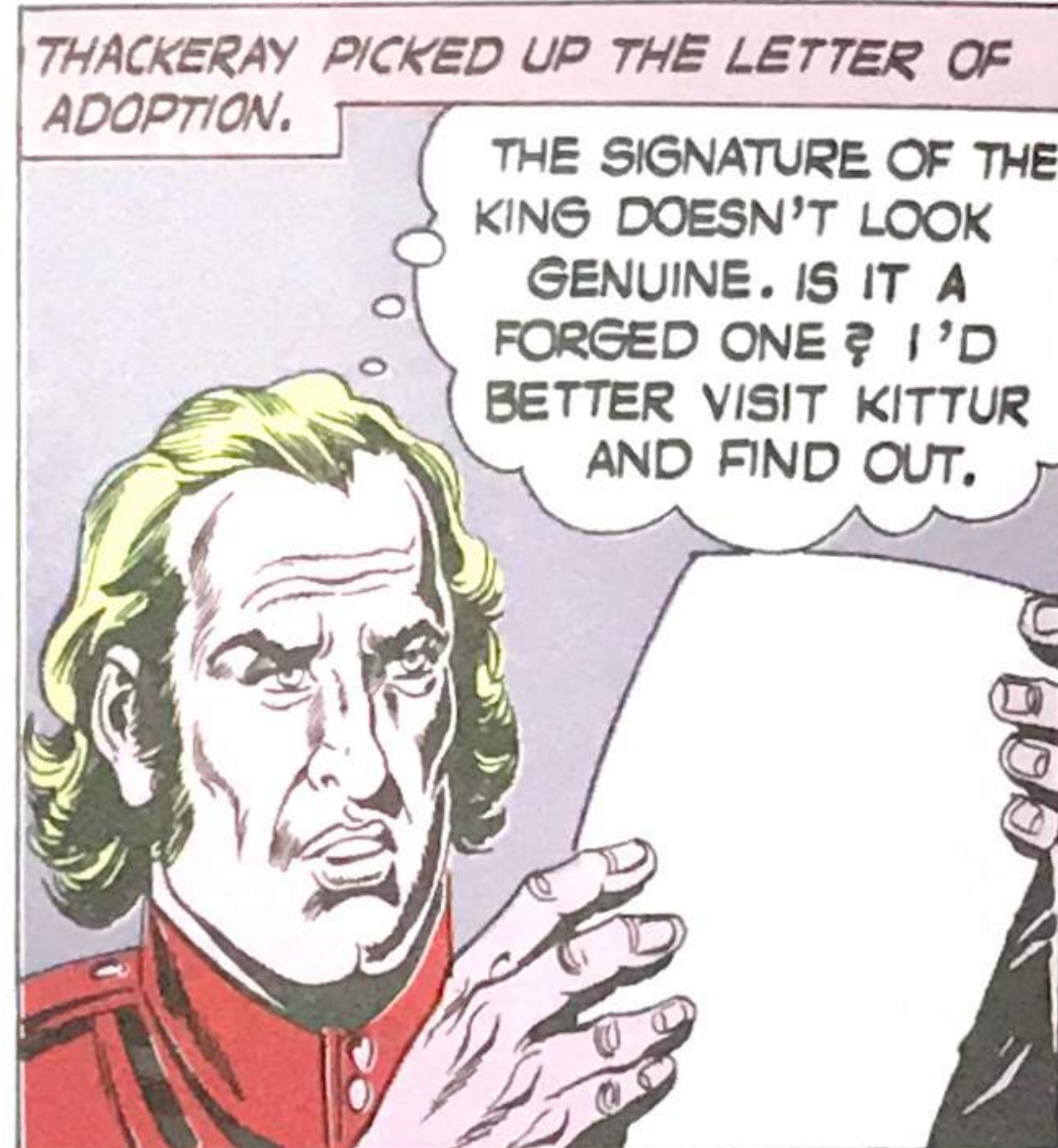
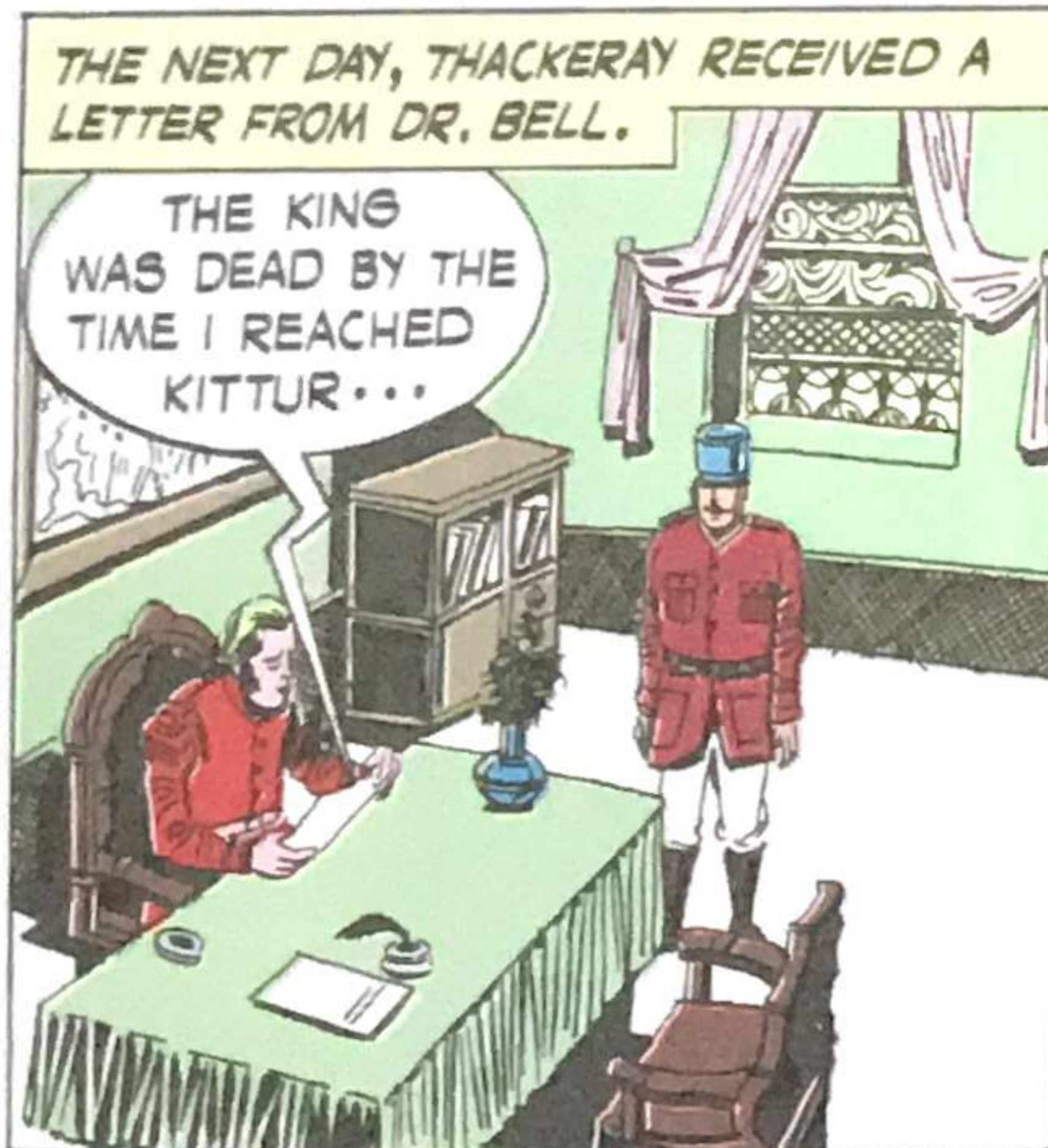
WHEN THE MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED THAT VERY DAY TO THACKERAY, THE BRITISH POLITICAL AGENT AT DHARWAR —



I WILL SEND DR. BELL TO KITTUR TO TREAT THE KING.

DR. BELL LEFT FOR KITTUR IMMEDIATELY.

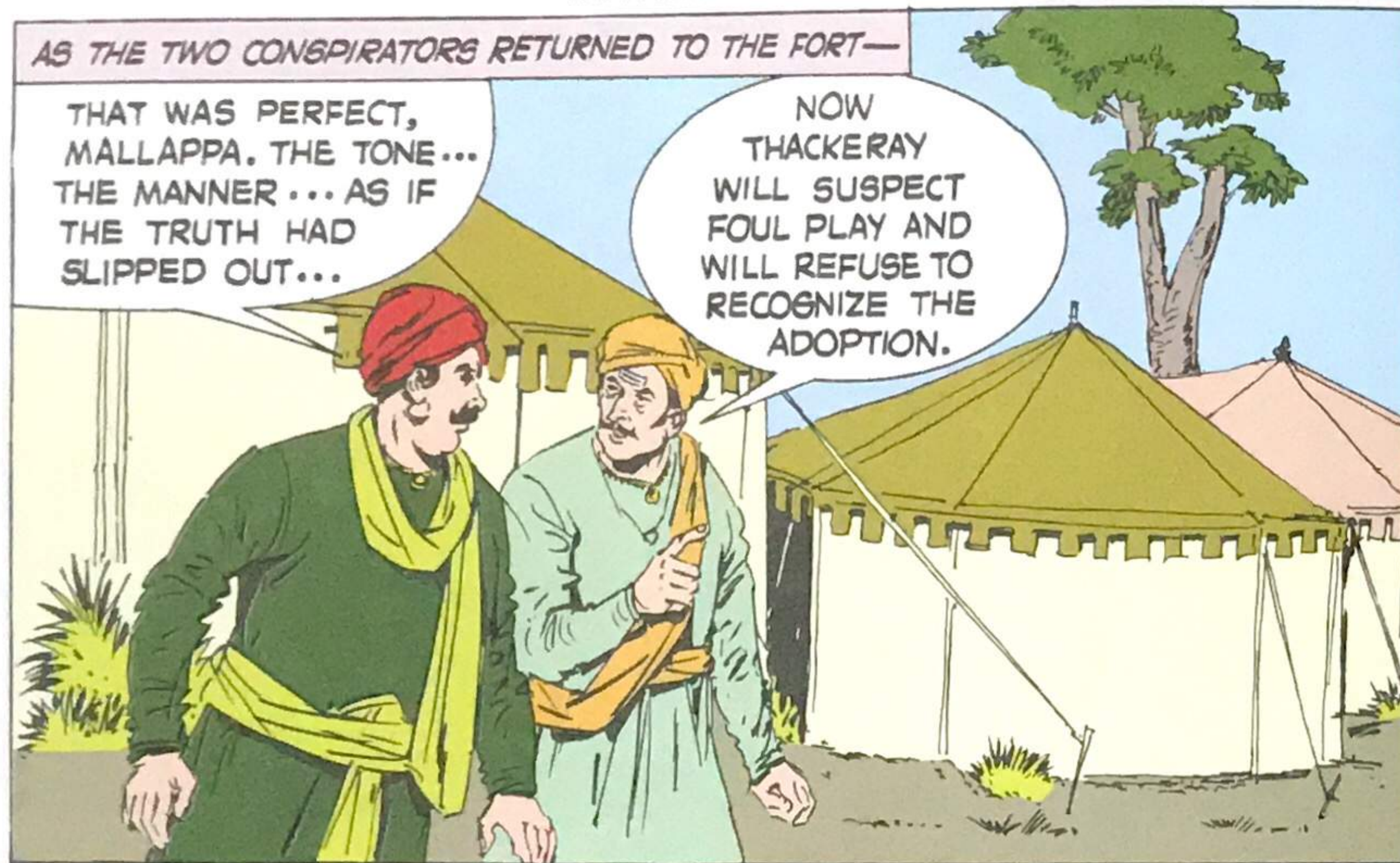
* ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1824



AS THE TWO CONSPIRATORS RETURNED TO THE FORT—

THAT WAS PERFECT, MALLAPPA. THE TONE... THE MANNER... AS IF THE TRUTH HAD SLIPPED OUT...

NOW THACKERAY WILL SUSPECT FOUL PLAY AND WILL REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE THE ADOPTION.



LATER, WHEN GURU SIDDAPPA CALLED ON THACKERAY—

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE AN ADOPTION UNLESS OUR PRIOR APPROVAL IS TAKEN?

THERE WAS NO TIME, SIR. THE KING WAS ON HIS DEATH-BED AND...

AND HE DIED BY THE TIME YOU GOT THE LETTER OF ADOPTION READY!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SIR?



YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. THE PEN WITH WHICH ONE OF YOU SIGNED WAS THRUST INTO THE LIFELESS HAND OF THE DEAD DESAI.

THIS IS AN AFFRONT! TAKE BACK YOUR WORDS, SIR.

THACKERAY REMAINED ADAMANT.

I'LL SEND MY REPORT TO MR. CHAPLIN. MEANWHILE, I WANT LAW AND ORDER TO BE MAINTAINED IN KITTUR.

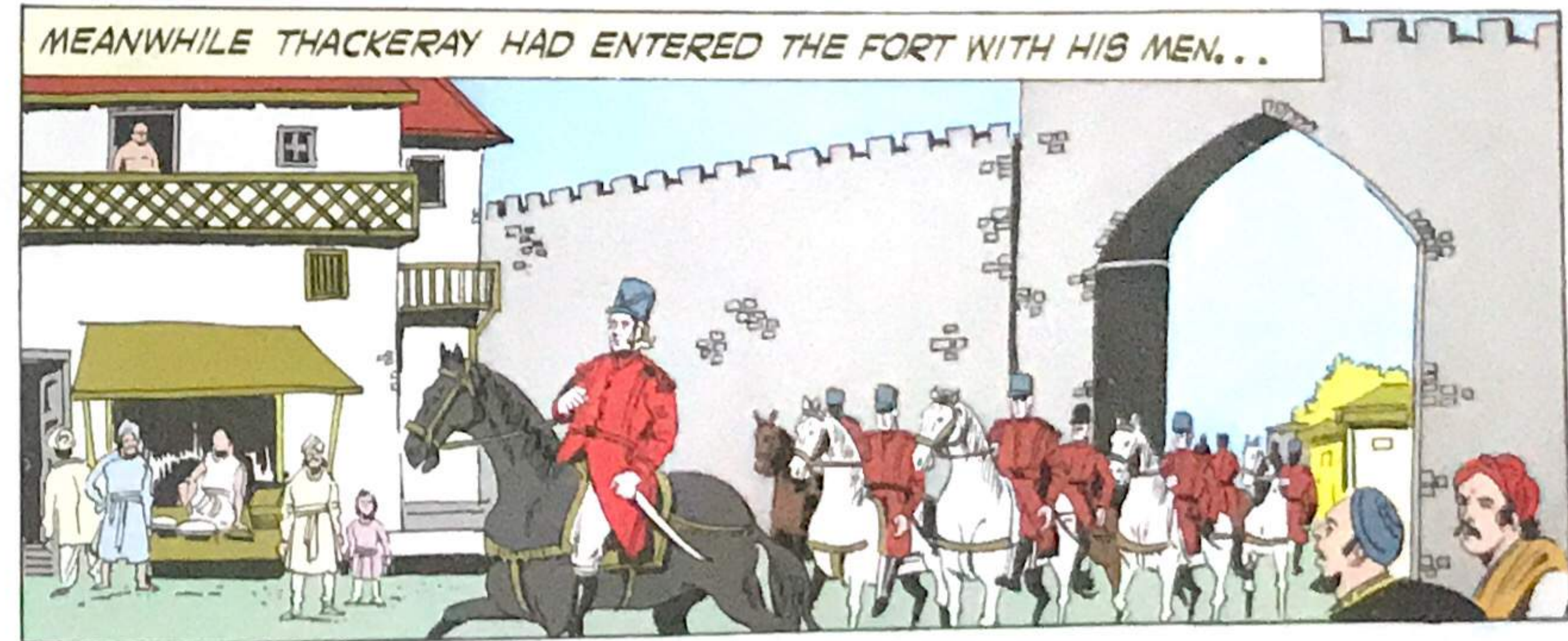
WE HAVE NEVER NEEDED YOUR HELP FOR THAT AND WE DON'T NEED IT NOW!

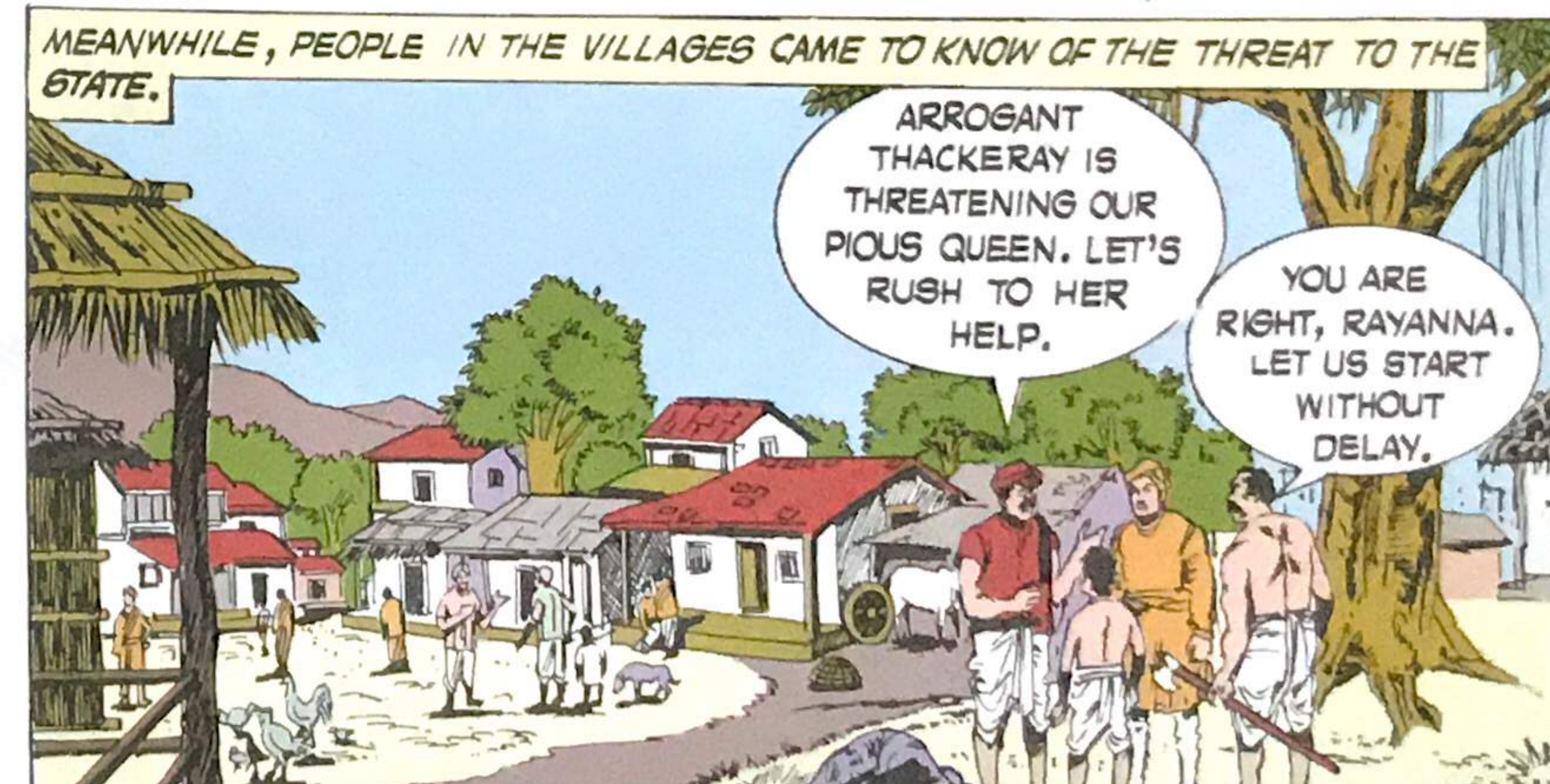
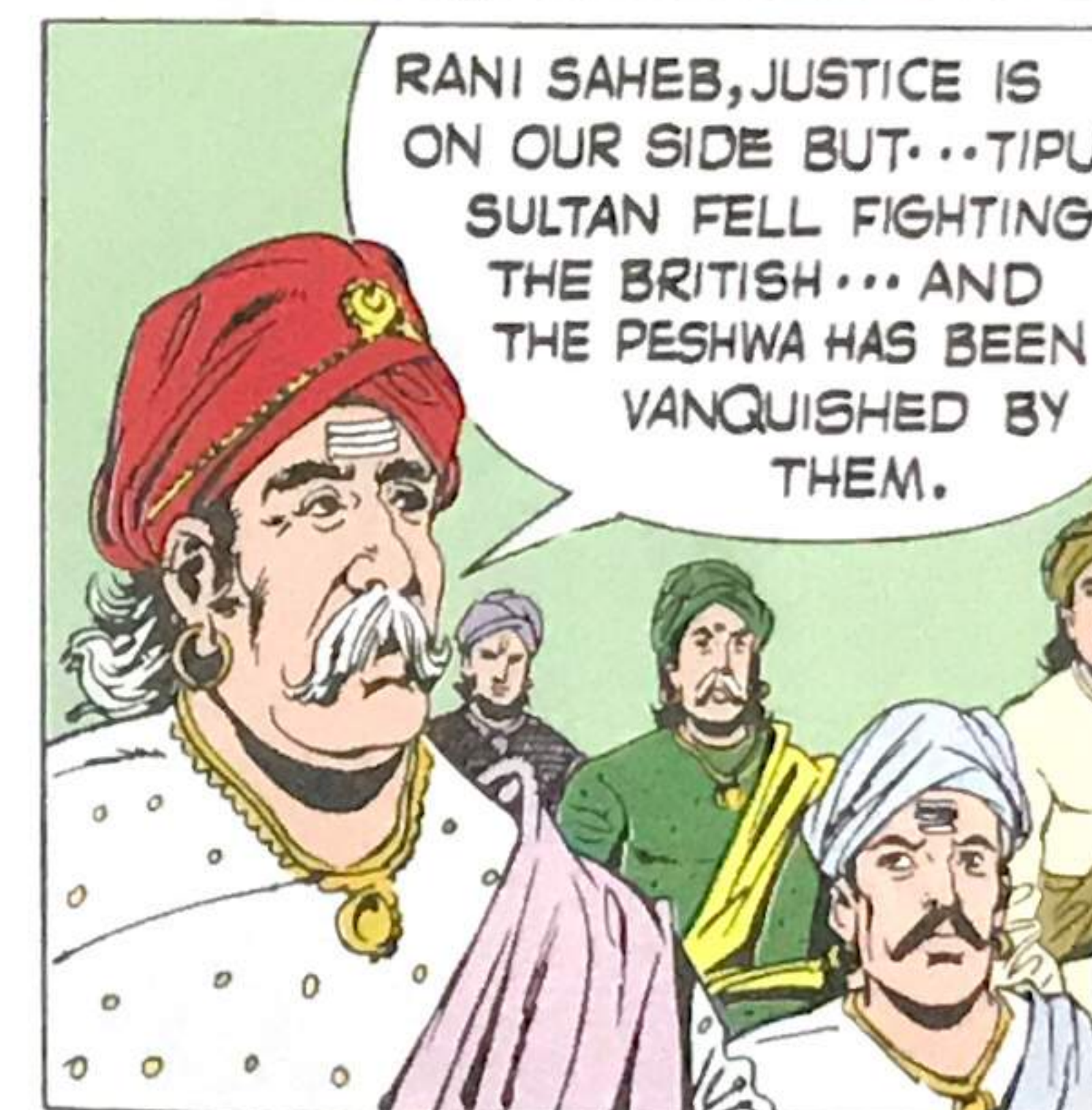
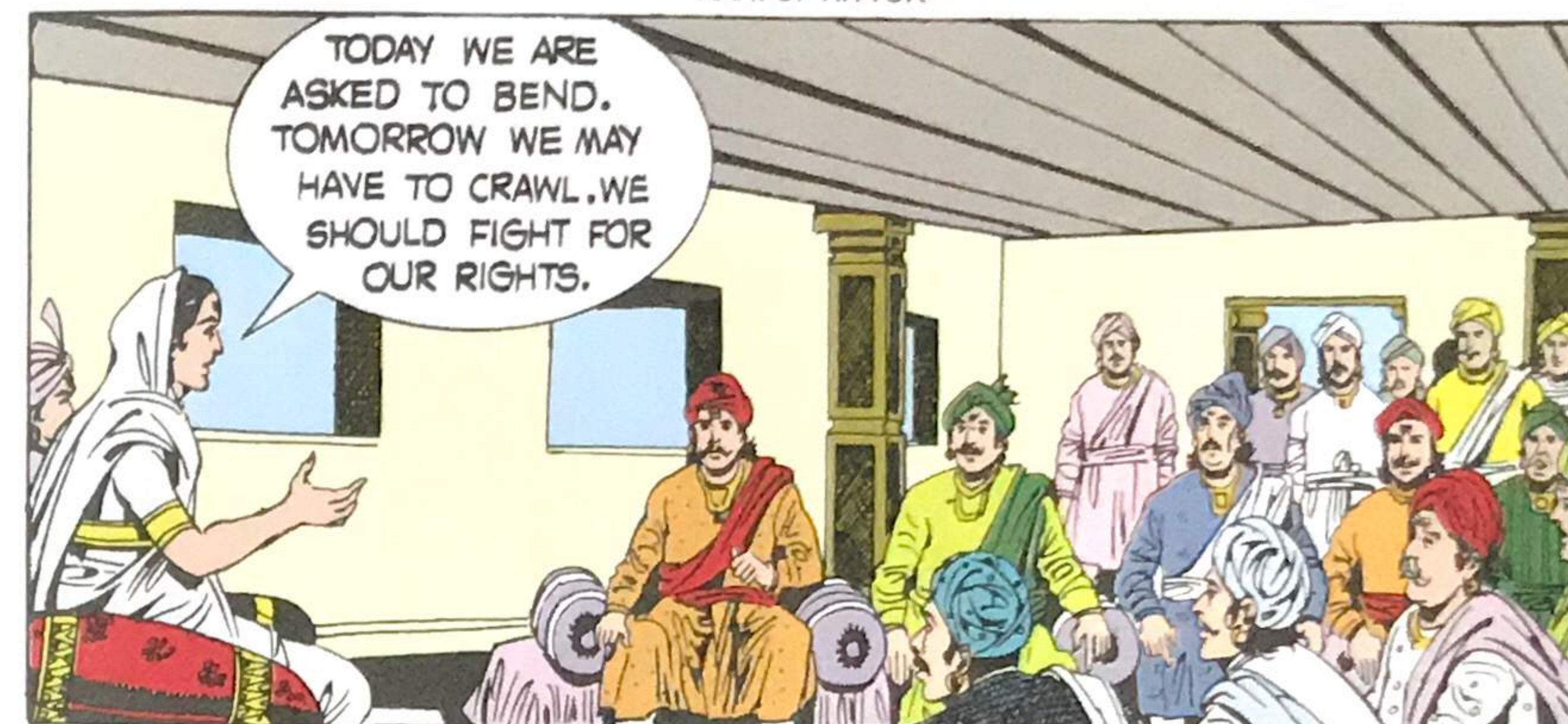
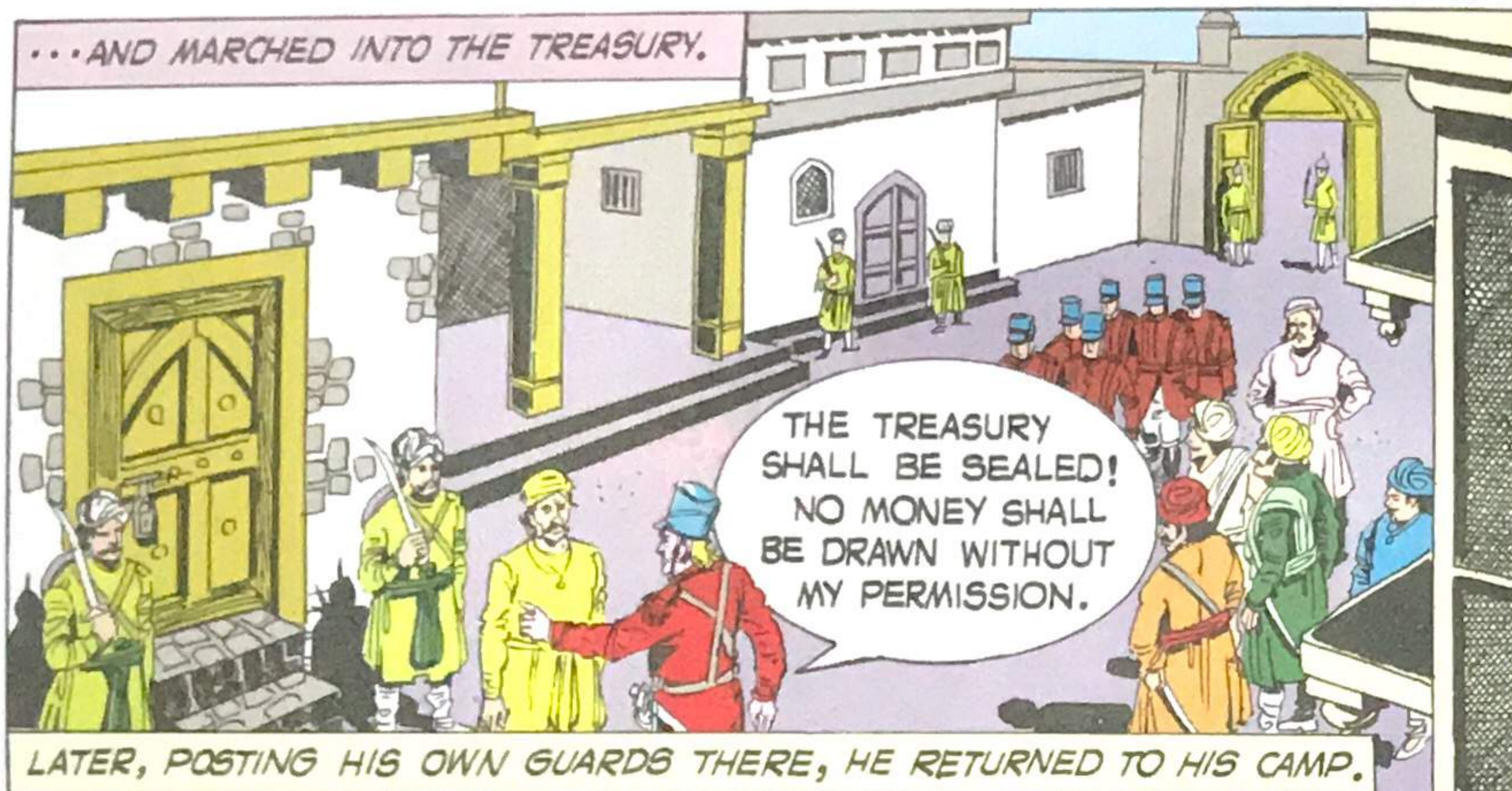
WHEN GURU SIDDAPPA REPORTED THE TALK HE HAD WITH THACKERAY TO THE QUEEN—

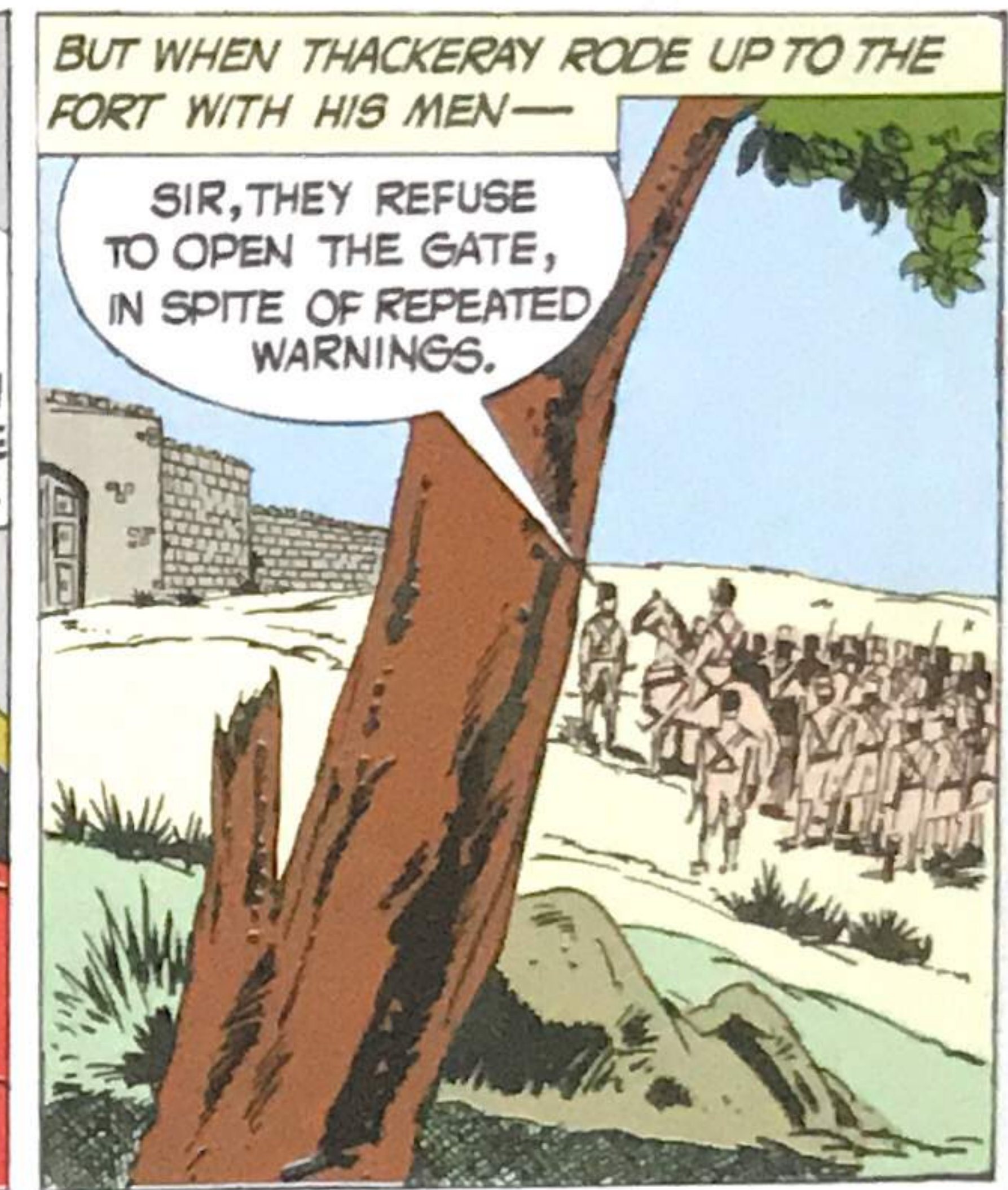
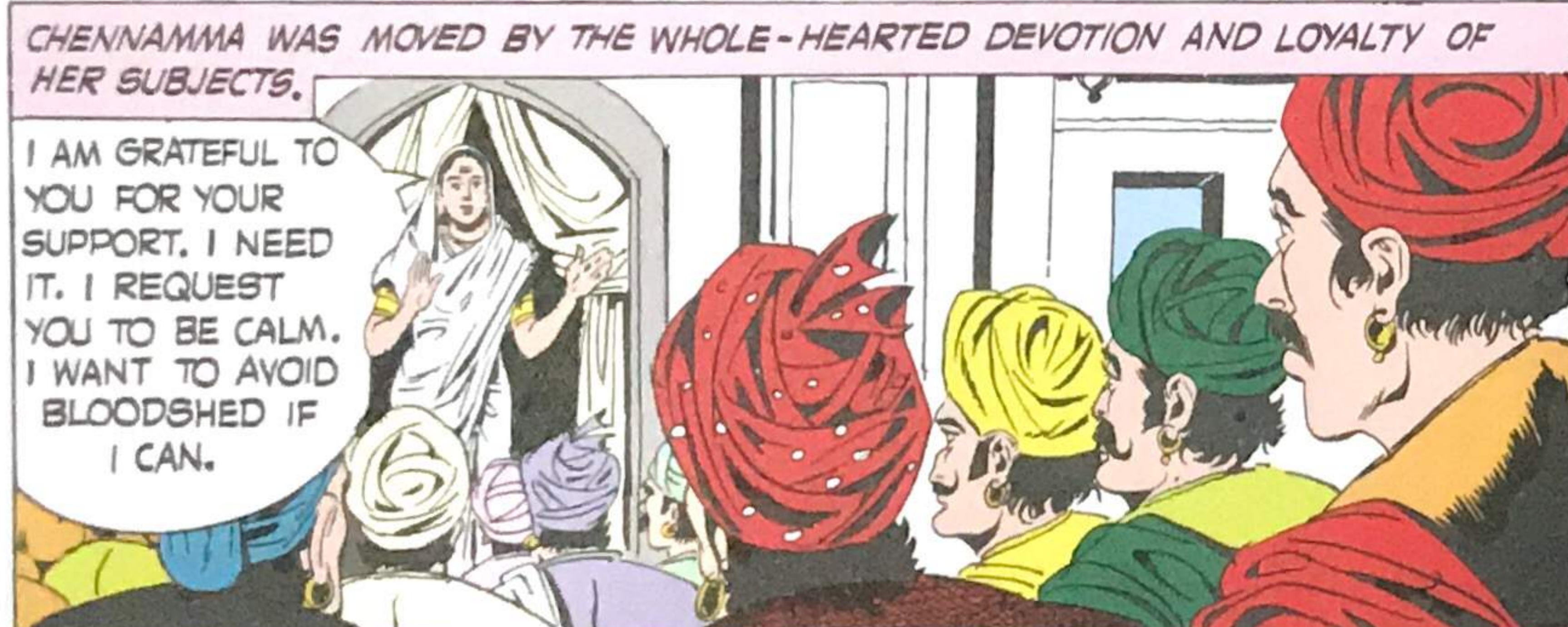
WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THE HIGH-HANDED BEHAVIOUR OF THE ENGLISH COLLECTOR! LET THE COUNCILLORS MEET TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES RAISED BY HIM.

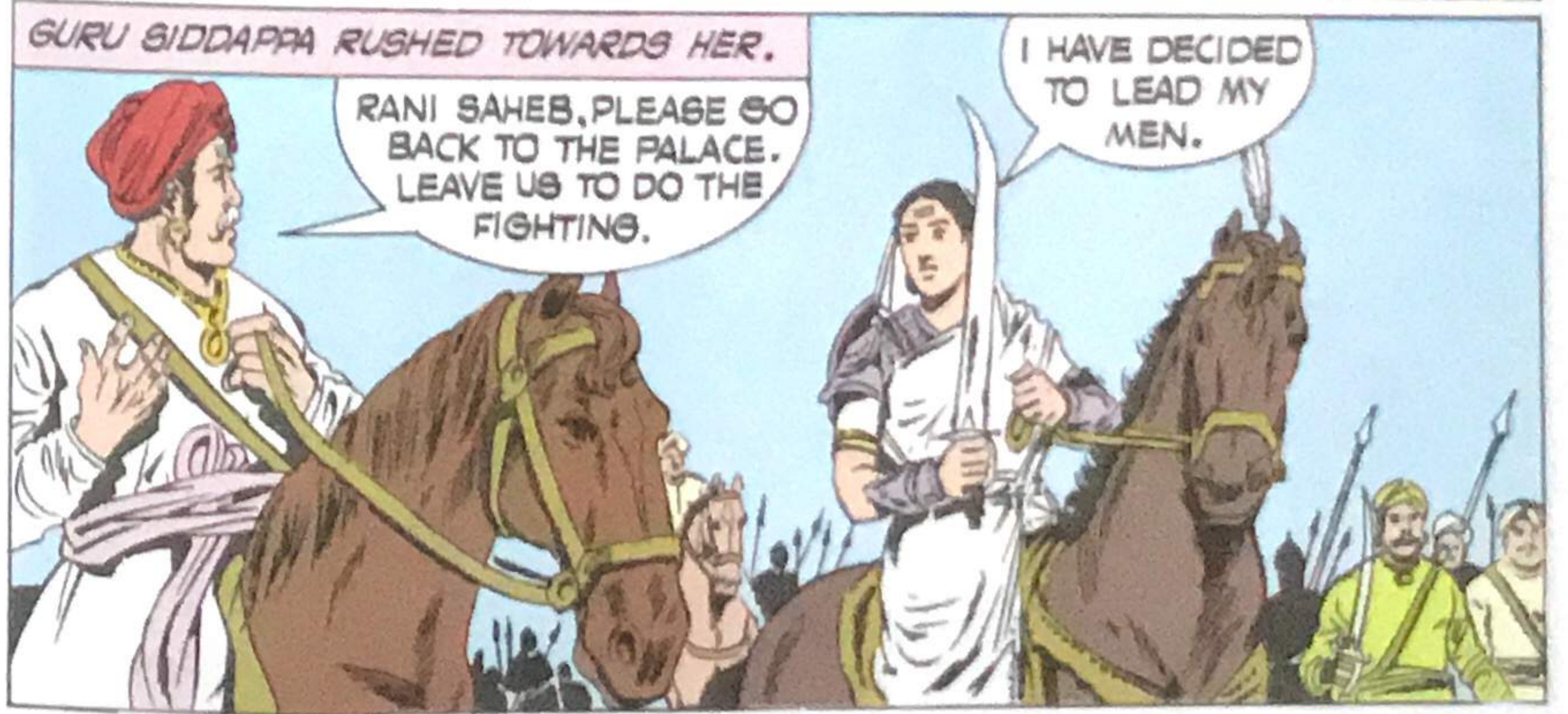
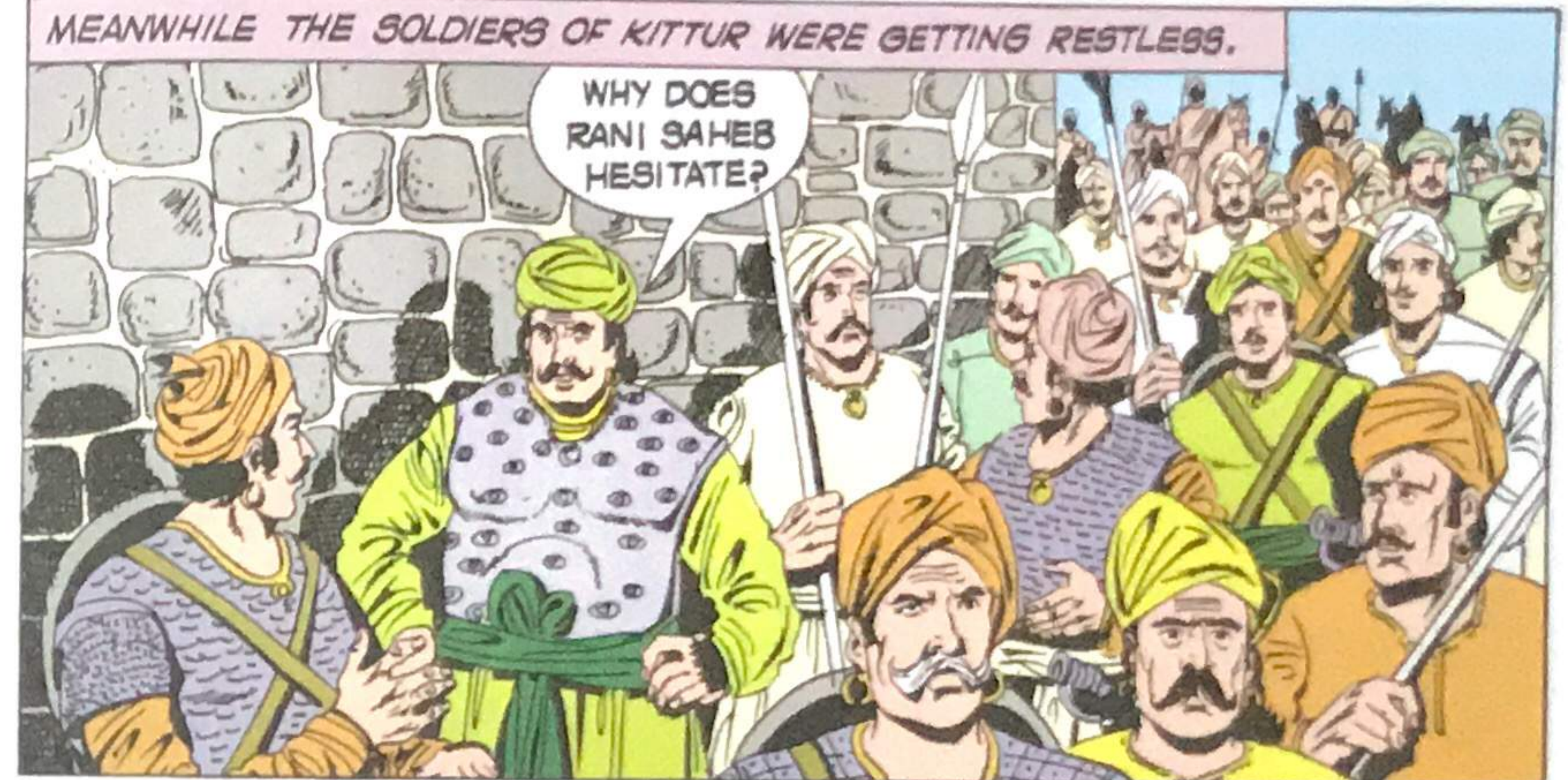


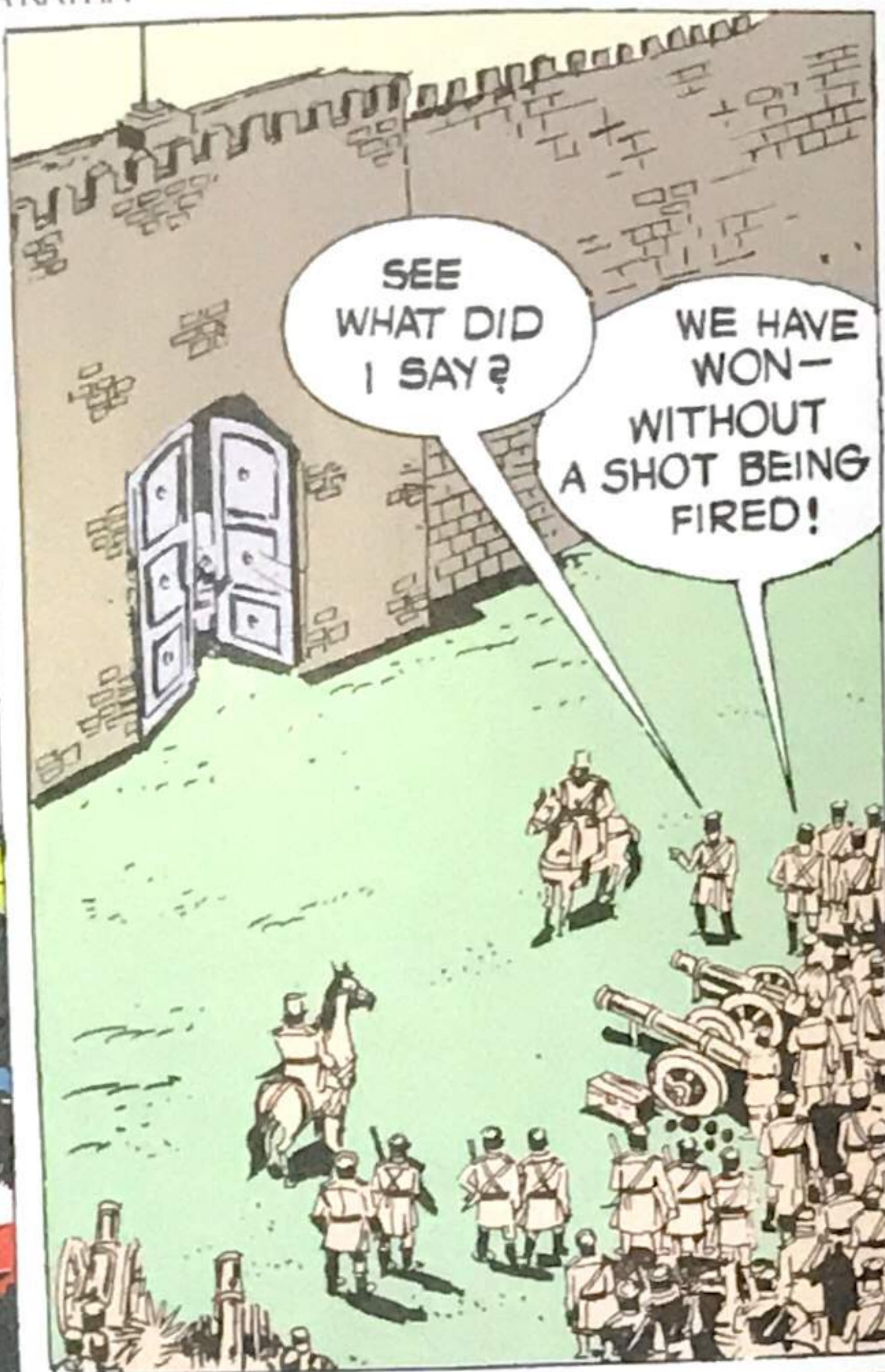
MEANWHILE THACKERAY HAD ENTERED THE FORT WITH HIS MEN...





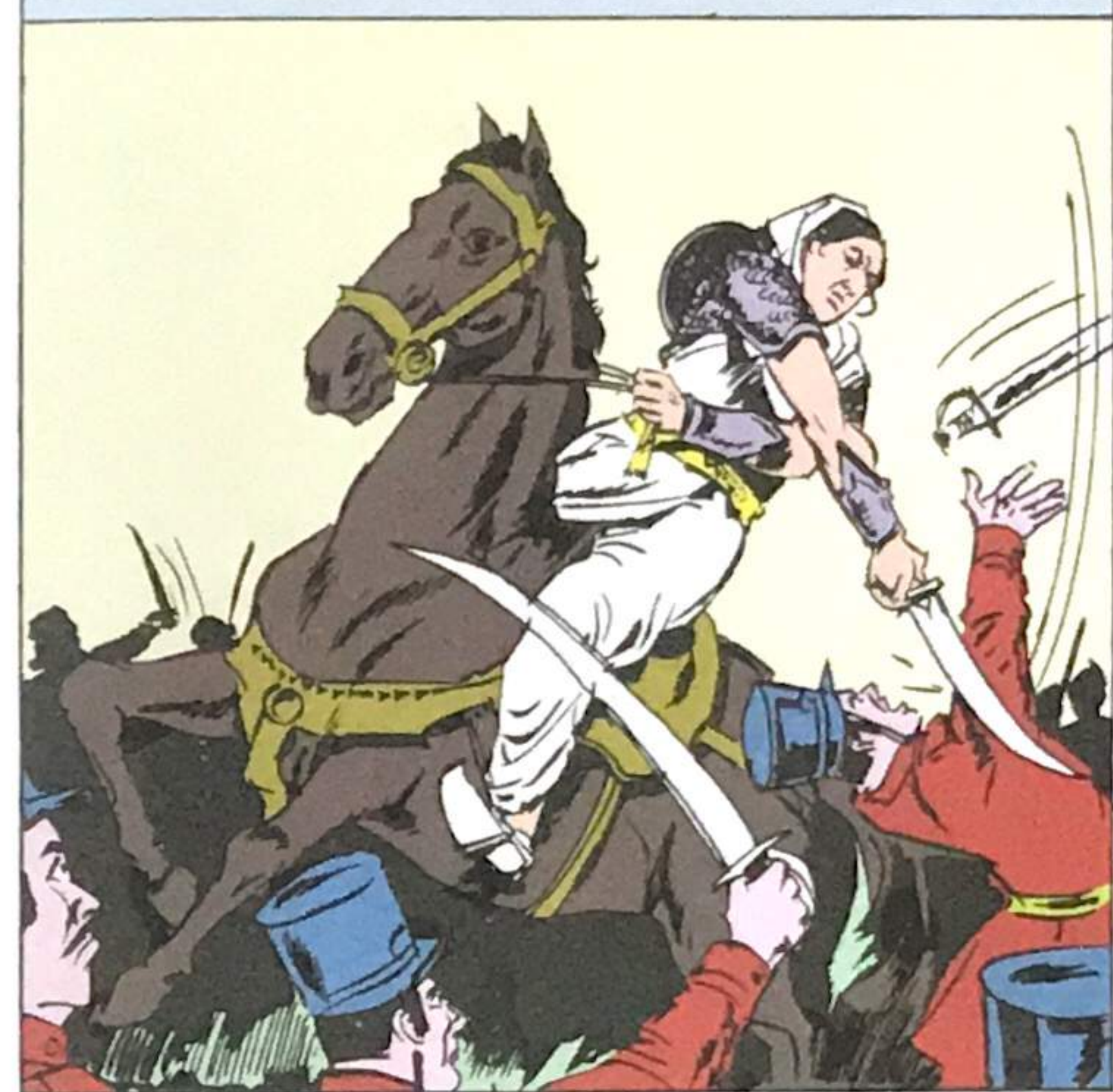




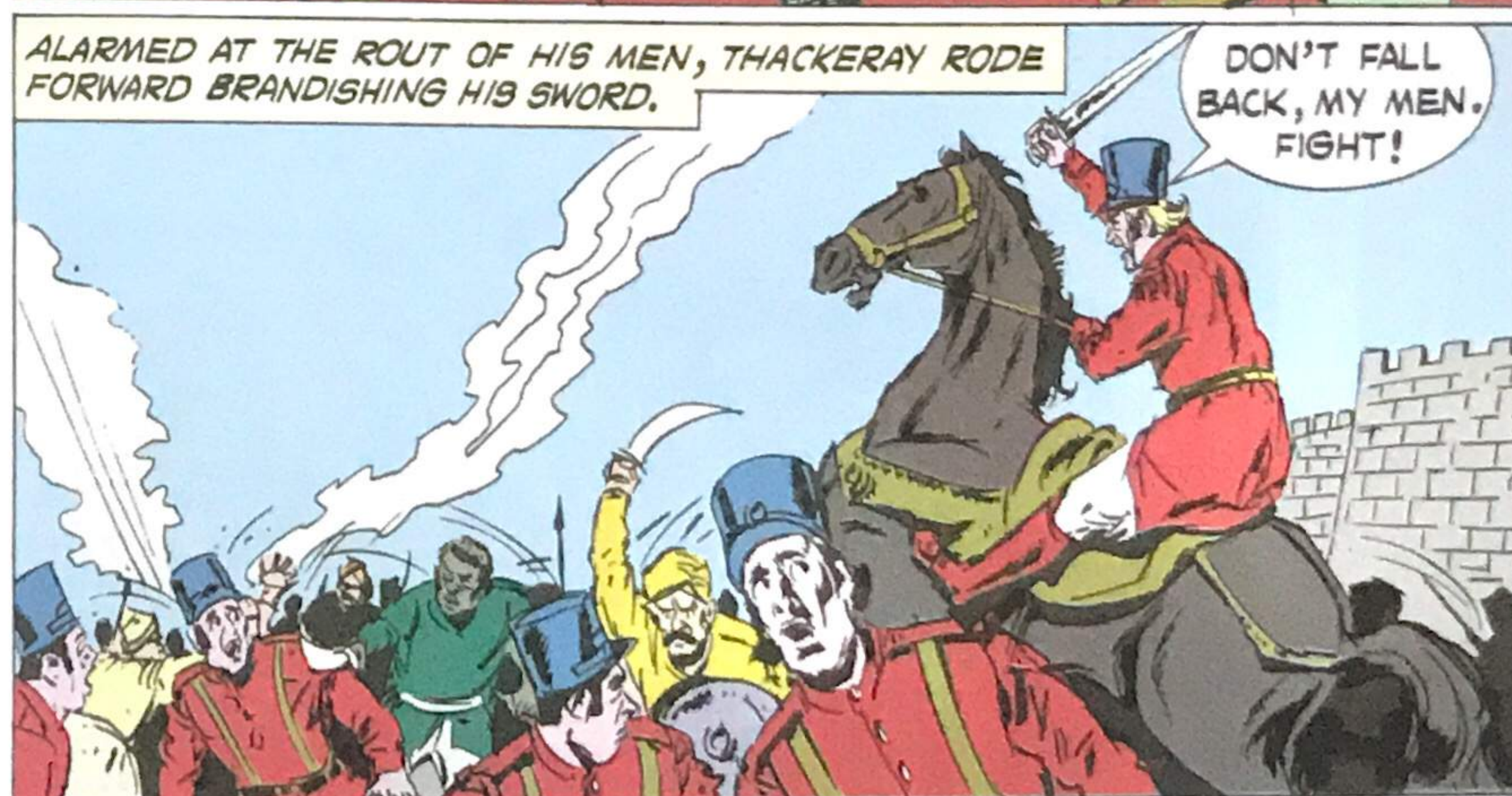


*A WAR CRY

RANI CHENNAMMA WAS THE FIRST TO STRIKE.



AN AFRICAN IMMIGRANT, FIGHTING FOR CHENNAMMA, CAUSED HAVOC IN THE BRITISH ARMY.

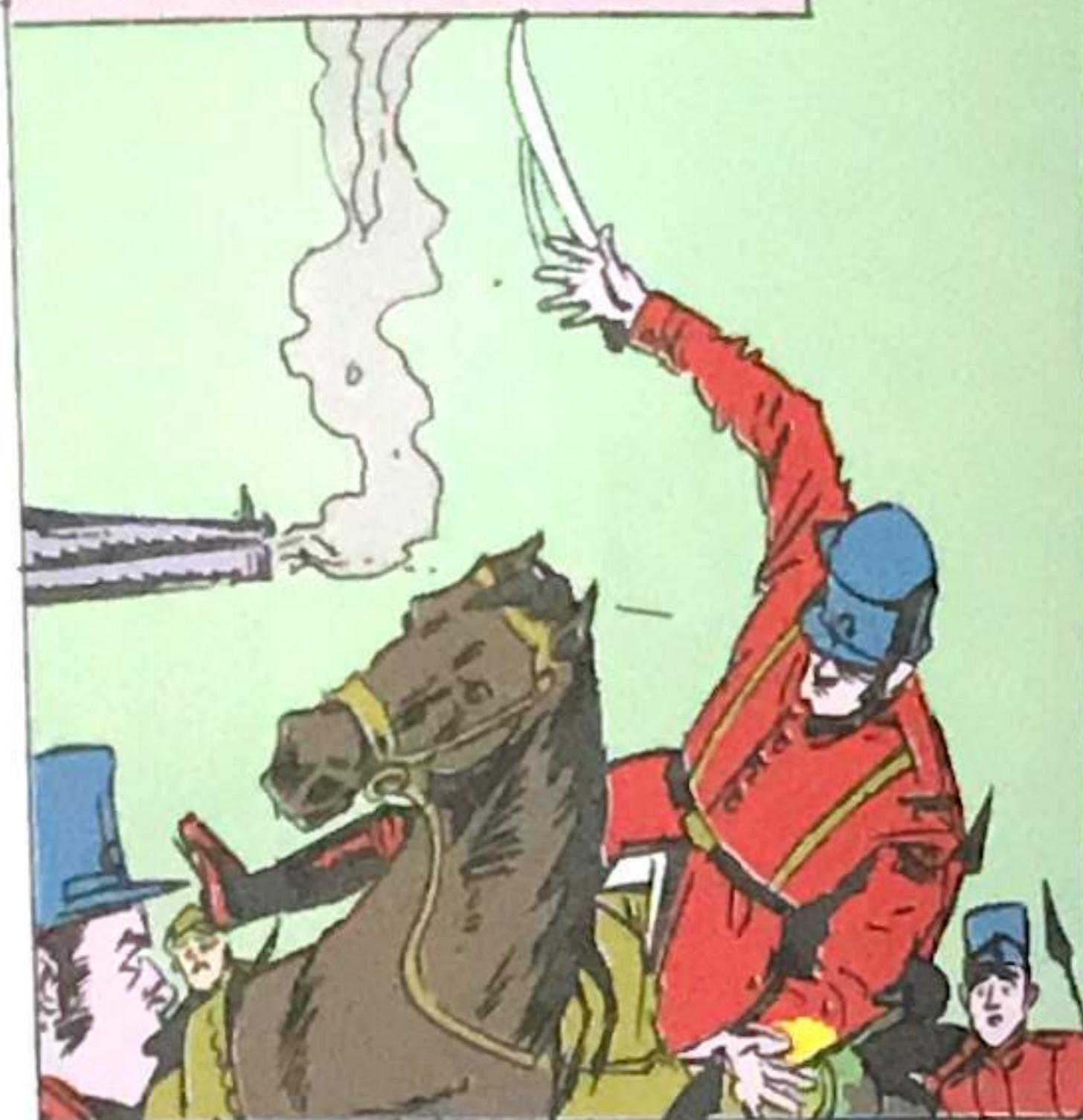


WHEN SAYID BALAPPA, A MUSLIM BODYGUARD OF CHENNAMMA TOOK AIM AT THACKERAY —



NO, BALAPPA!
NOT HIM!

BUT BALAPPA HAD ALREADY
PRESSED THE TRIGGER.



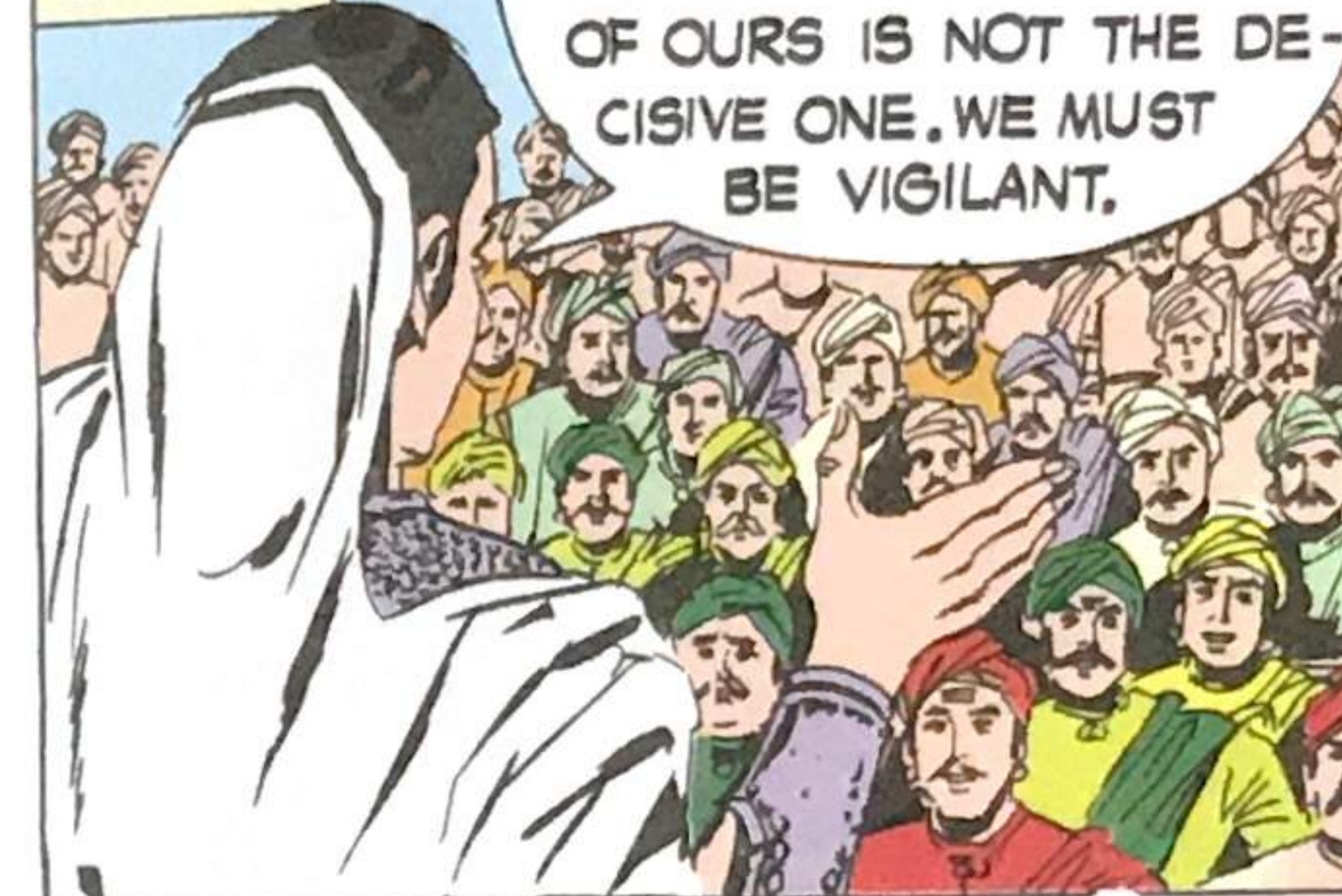
AS THACKERAY FELL, GURU SIDDAPPA, RAYANNA AND OTHER VETERANS SWOOPED
DOWN ON THE RETREATING ENEMY...



...AND SEVERAL OF THEM WERE
TAKEN PRISONERS.



FOR THE CHEERING
CROWD, CHENNAMMA
HAD A WORD OF
CAUTION.



NOW WE ARE COMMITTED
TO THE PATH OF CON-
FRONTATION WITH THE
BRITISH. THIS VICTORY
OF OURS IS NOT THE DE-
CISIVE ONE. WE MUST
BE VIGILANT.

THE VICTORY OF RANI CHENNAMMA CAME
AS A BLOW TO THE BRITISH. CHAPLIN, THE
DECCAN COMMISSIONER RUSHED FROM
PUNE TO BELGAUM AND HELD TALKS
WITH THE COMMANDING OFFICERS.

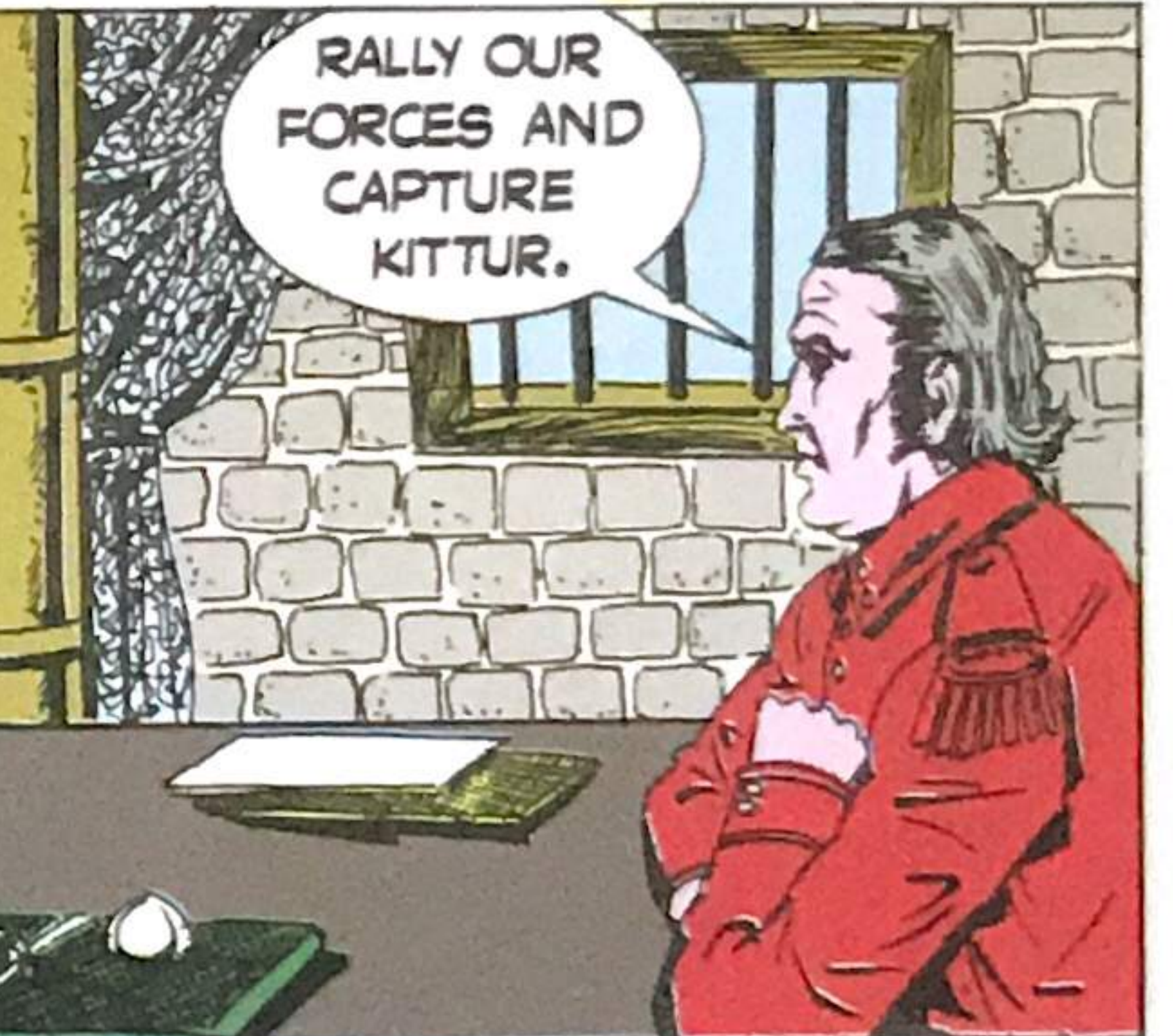
A WOMAN HAS HUMBLLED
OUR PRIDE. SHE MUST
BE CRUSHED.



YES, SIR. IF KITTUR
GOES UNPUNISHED
THE OTHER INDIAN
STATES ALSO
MAY REBEL.



RALLY OUR
FORCES AND
CAPTURE
KITTUR.

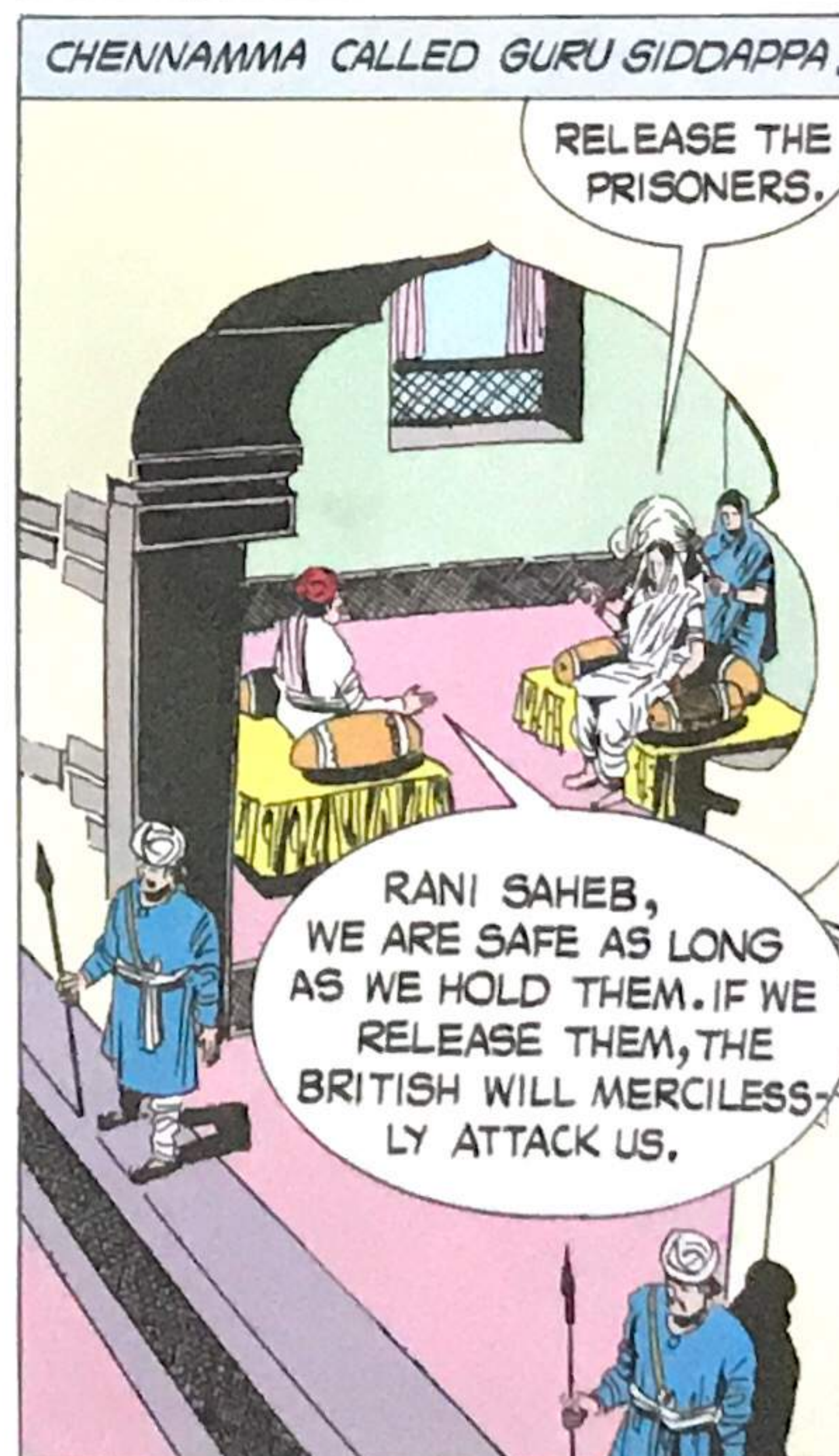
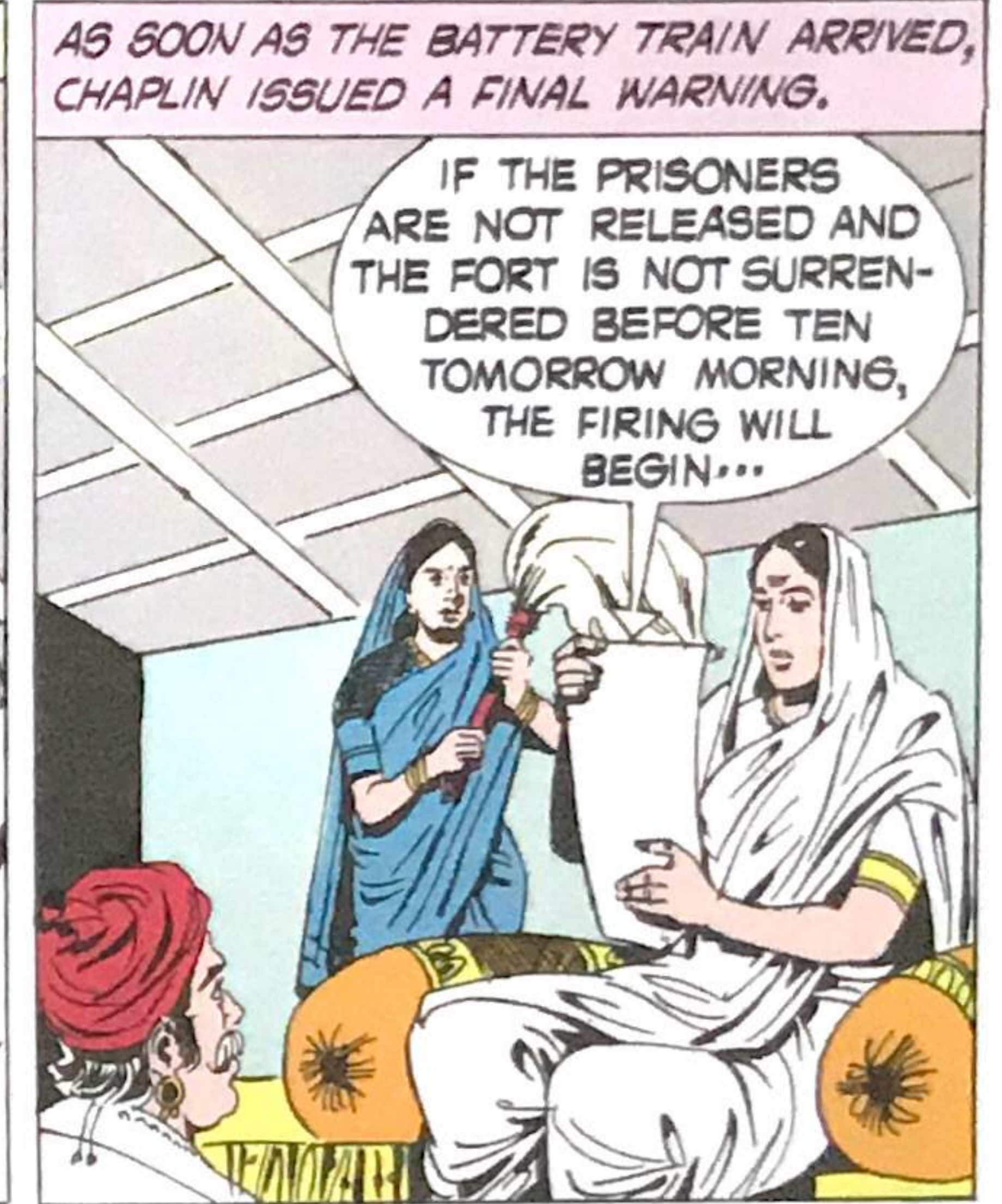
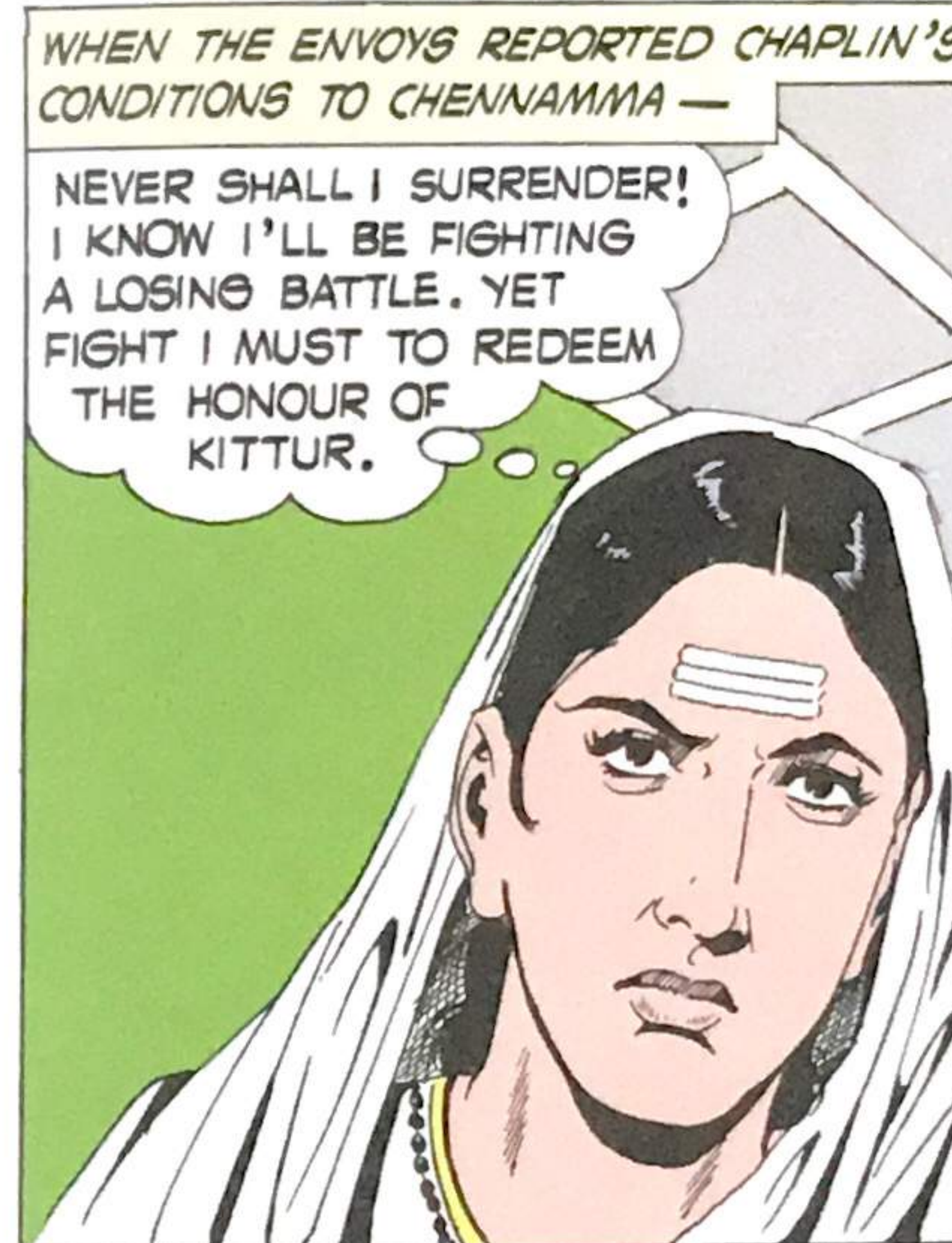
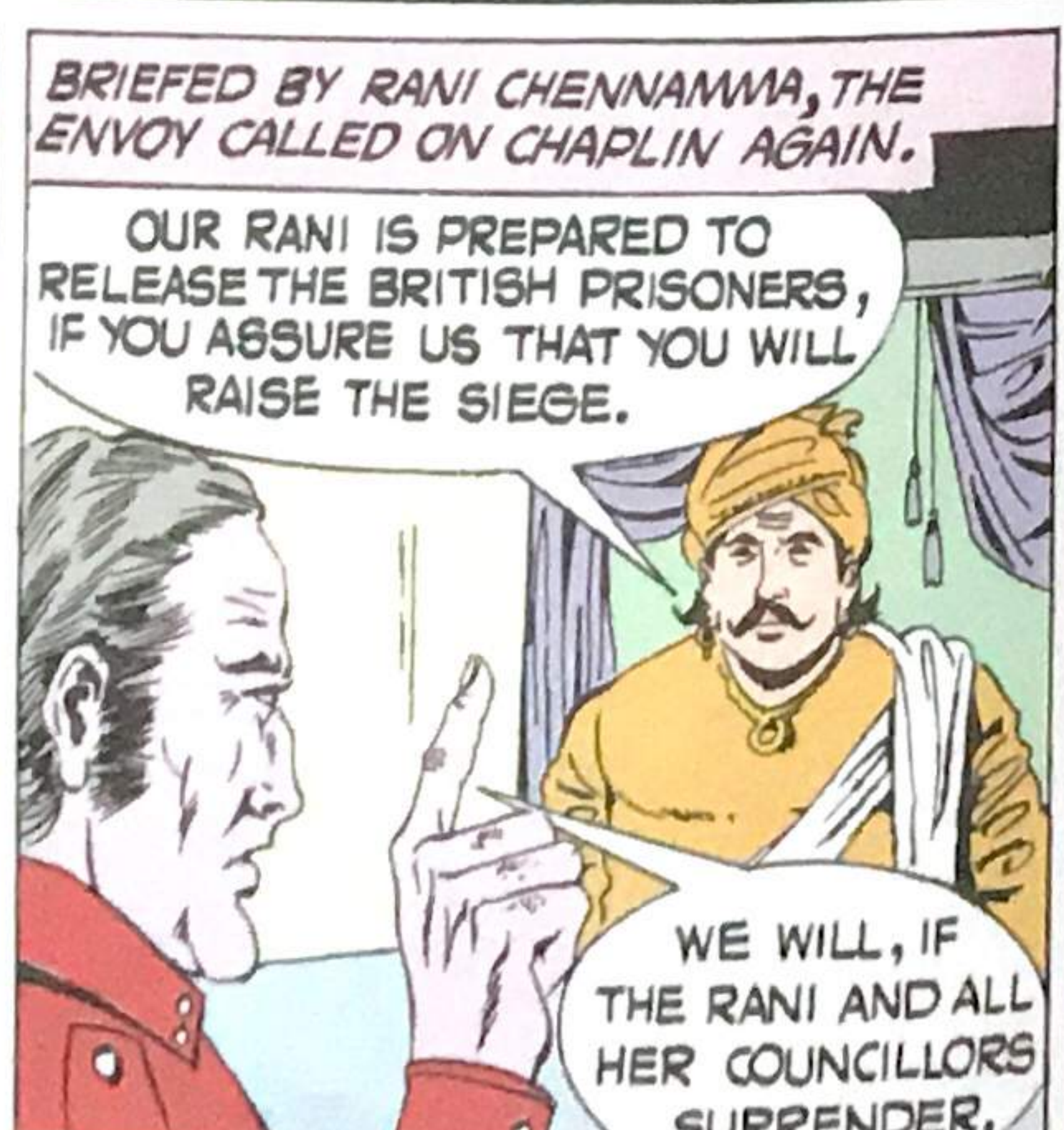
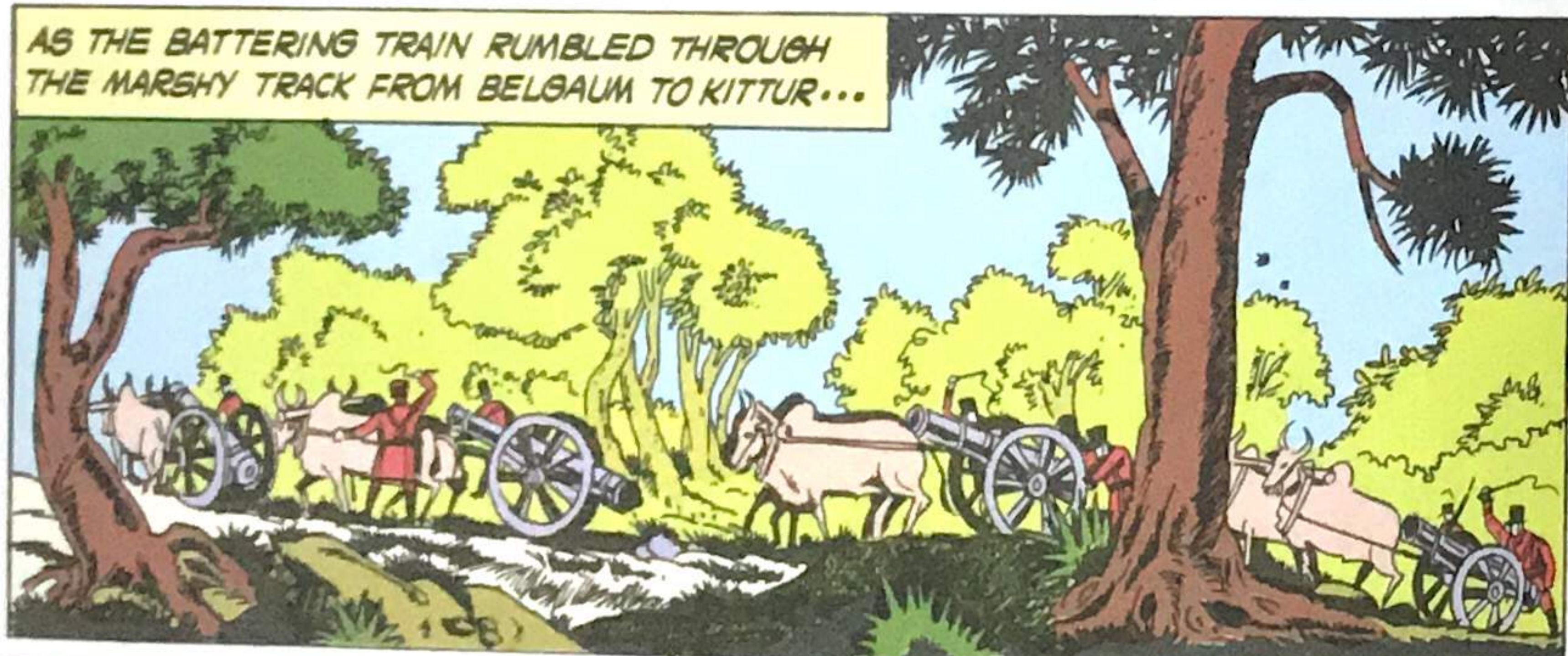


THE BRITISH FORCES FROM BOMBAY AND MADRAS ARRIVED AT KITTUR AND LAID
SIEGE TO THE FORT.



OUR TASK WOULD HAVE BEEN
MUCH EASIER IF MALLAPPA AND
VENKATA RAO WERE ALIVE. THE
RANI FOUND OUT THEIR
TREACHERY AND HAD THEM
PUT TO DEATH.

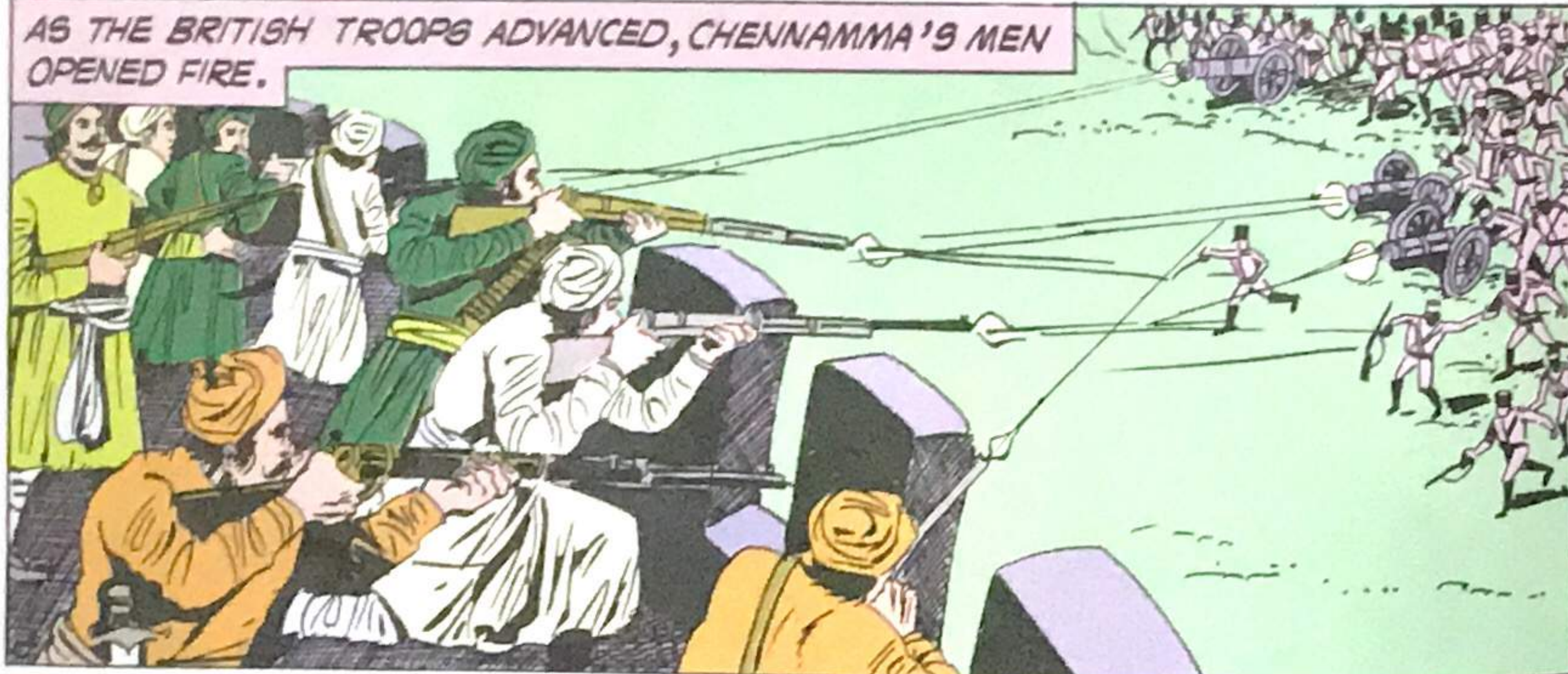
WHAT
IF THEY
ARE DEAD?
THERE
MUST BE
MANY
SUCH.



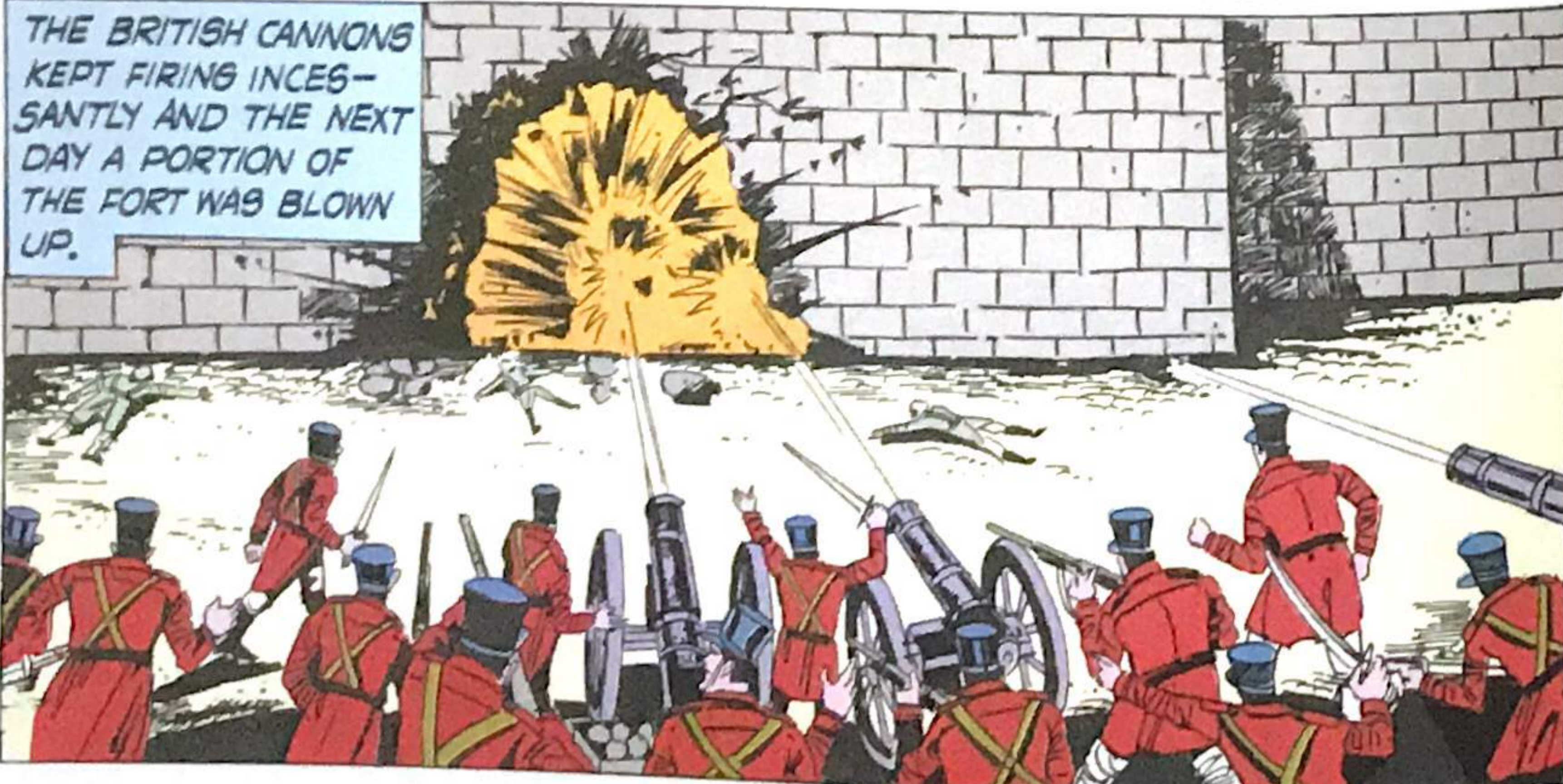
THE PRISONERS WALKED OUT OF THE FORT. TWO OF THEM, STEVENSON AND ELIOT CALLED ON CHAPLIN.



AS THE BRITISH TROOPS ADVANCED, CHENNAMMA'S MEN OPENED FIRE.



THE BRITISH CANNONS KEPT FIRING INCES-
SANTLY AND THE NEXT
DAY A PORTION OF
THE FORT WAS BLOWN
UP.



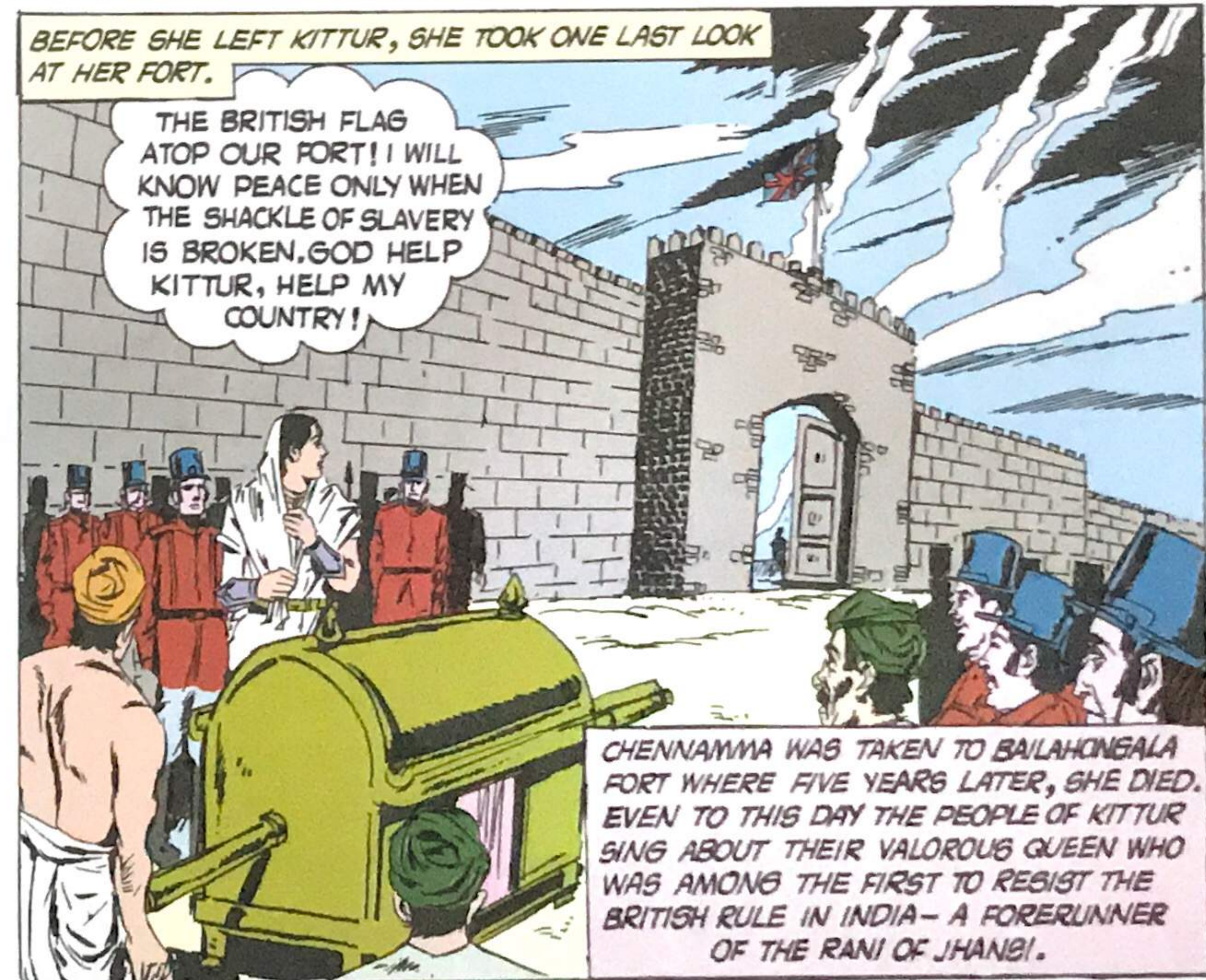
THE ENEMY POURED INTO THE FORT AND A
FIERCE BATTLE FOLLOWED.



CHENNAMMA LOST HEAVILY AND WAS
FINALLY TAKEN PRISONER.



BEFORE SHE LEFT KITTUR, SHE TOOK ONE LAST LOOK
AT HER FORT.



CHENNAMMA WAS TAKEN TO BAILAHONGALA
FORT WHERE FIVE YEARS LATER, SHE DIED.
EVEN TO THIS DAY THE PEOPLE OF KITTUR
SING ABOUT THEIR VALOROUS QUEEN WHO
WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO RESIST THE
BRITISH RULE IN INDIA - A FORERUNNER
OF THE RANI OF JHANGI.